

Survival Story – Chapter 15

“I view salvaging as preserving the basic essentials of life. Since they weren’t yours to begin with, you are obligated to share them, with deserving people. That would include bartering them for something that you need but don’t have.”

“Ok, let’s talk about a means of protection. If you have things, there are some who would take what you have by force. You need the means to repel that force and to protect your loved ones. In most cases, the most effective tool to accomplish the task is a firearm. In the view of many, you will need a handgun and some sort of long arm. You will need to know how to effectively use the weapon and how to keep it functional. You talk that over among yourselves and we will revisit the issue long before we ever leave this shelter.”

That started a discussion I didn’t want to get involved with. Survivalists tend to lump people into 2 categories: survivalists and sheeple. That overlooks a large group of people I’ll call them the unprepared willing. It may have been financial circumstances that prevented them from preparing adequately, but they had a good idea what they need and were willing to get it and use it.

There is another group out there that we will need to deal with. We watched TV and saw New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina. One of the first things we heard was gunfire. Shall we say a criminal element broke into guns stores and used the weapons to fire on the few police officers who were able to show up? For the sake of simplicity and avoiding hurt feelings, I just call them the BGs (Bad Guys, non-gender, non-ethnic specific).

Firearms sometimes put people off. Perhaps the reason is that they are unfamiliar with them. That’s easily remedied, buy one and get training. Keep the weapon secure and store your ammo in a separate place or keep it all in a gun safe. Depending on the firearm involved, a trigger lock or action block (cable) will prevent the curious from using the firearm. I’m a believer of the cocked and locked philosophy (Condition 1), but some aren’t.

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Condition 0 - A round is in the chamber, hammer is cocked, and the safety is off.

Condition 1 - Also known as ‘cocked and locked”, means a round is in the chamber, the hammer is cocked, and the manual thumb safety on the side of the frame is applied.

Condition 2 - A round is in the chamber and the hammer is down.

Condition 3 - The chamber is empty and hammer is down with a charged magazine in the gun.

Condition 4 - The chamber is empty, hammer is down and no magazine is in the gun.

When the gun is cocked and locked, the sear is blocked from releasing the hammer. Further, unless a firing grip is on the pistol, thumb safety swept off, and the trigger is pulled, the gun will not go off. For my money, this is much safer than a Glock or some of

the other new pistol designs which have no external safety. The Glock, by the way, is also pre-cocked which is why it can have a much lighter trigger than a real double action gun. It could be said that the Glock is “cocked and unlocked” which is called “condition zero” with the M1911. Anecdotal, we hear of many more “accidental discharges” with Glocks than with M1911 pattern guns. The 1911 has two manual safeties. It may look scary, but it is really much safer than many current designs.

Other issues come into play when you’re considering keeping a 1911 loaded for home defense, such as if you have small children in the home and how much access your friends have to your home, but there is nothing inherently dangerous with having a cocked and locked gun at the ready. If you have really small children who are too young to train on firearms safety, then condition 3 – empty chamber – is definitely the way to go because the child will not know to rack the slide to load it and they will lack the strength in their hands and arms to do it. If you are a very social person who has a lot of parties and people running through your house all the time, then you really should wear it, concealed of course, so that the pistol is under your immediate control and you don’t have to worry about someone finding it and doing something stupid. If that’s not possible, lock it up or find a smarter circle of friends who won’t go through your stuff when you’re not looking.

Finally, the real cure for cocked and locked anxiety is to get “un-new” to the gun. Shoot it, get used to it, learn it so that you don’t have to think about it. Familiarity will dispel that anxiety. Get some training if at all possible. Pistols really require some training and practice to use effectively. A good training session with a qualified professional trainer will help to separate the fact from the fantasy about what you can actually do with your pistol when the chips are down. – Syd

Gee, he said about what I said. For something like a pump shotgun, I’d use Condition 3. The sound of you racking the slide may be the only deterrent you need. For a military style rifle fed by a magazine, I recommend a buttstock magazine pouch with one loaded magazine, Condition 4. You can go from Condition 4 to Condition 0 in a couple of heartbeats, plus you have the advantage of the racking sound. If I had a pistol just lying around, I’d use Condition 3 or 4. When a soldier is in a battle zone, they do what I suggested; use the buttstock pouch when they are in camp. I haven’t inquired how they carry the weapons when they are in the field, I’d say at least Condition 3 although, I’d prefer Condition 1.

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It is possible to check the peak radiation level to an extent, even with a survey meter that has a maximum range of 500R. You can pick a point where you think the level peaked and check 7 and 49 hours later, both levels should be within the range of your survey meter. It’s really not that important, you aren’t going anywhere unless you have a Tyvek suit and a gas mask.

“Derek, do you have your MOPP gear?”

“That’s obsolete, we use JSLIST now.”

“What is JSLIST?”

“Components include an Overgarment to be worn over the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU), and the Multipurpose Rain / Snow / CB Overboot (MULO). These items allow complete MOPP and heat stress management flexibility while tailoring the protection levels relative to mission scenarios and threat. Procurement of these items began in FY97.

“The JSLIST program developed and is fielding the JSLIST Overgarment and is manufacturing Multi-purpose Overboots (MULO). The JSLIST Overgarment and the Multipurpose Overboot (MULO) were adopted by all four services. These items, when combined with standard CB protective butyl gloves and masks for respiratory protection, allow complete MOPP flexibility. The Joint Firefighter Integrated Response Ensemble (J-FIRE) will also utilize the JSLIST overgarment.

“The JSLIST overgarment is designed to replace the Battle Dress Overgarment, the USMC Saratoga, and the Navy Chemical Protective Overgarment. It is lighter and less bulky than the previous Battle Dress Overgarment (BDO) chemical protective garments, is durable for 45 days, can be laundered up to six times and provides 24 hours of protection against liquid and vapor chemical challenges. The overgarment consists of a coat and trousers. The trousers have bellows-type pockets, high-waist, adjustable suspenders, and adjustable waistband. The trousers also have a slide fastener front opening with protective flap and a bellows pocket with flap located on each thigh. Each leg opening has two hook and loop ankle adjustment tabs. The waist-length coat has an integral hood, a slide fastener front concealed by a flap with hook and loop closure, enclosed extendable elasticized draw cord hem with jacket retention cord, full-length sleeves with hoop and loop wrist closure adjustment tabs, and an outside bellows pocket with flap on the left sleeve. The outer shell of both pieces is a 50/50 nylon/cotton poplin rip stop with a durable water repellent finish. The liner layer consists of a nonwoven front laminated to activated carbon spheres and bonded to a tricot knit back. Garments are being procured in 4-color Woodland Camouflage or 3-color Desert Camouflage patterns.”

“That’s nice, does it protect you against radiation?”

“Not completely, no. The bulky charcoal layer found in the older BDO is replaced with a selectively permeable membrane that is lighter and will block harmful substances, rather than absorb them. More perspiration will also be able to escape. Weighing just under six pounds, the new suit is about half the weight of the BDO. It is available in 4-color Woodland or a 3-color Desert Camouflage pattern. It can be worn in an uncontaminated environment for 45 days with up to six launderings or for over 120 days with no launderings. The JSLIST can be worn in a contaminated environment for 24 hours. Each soldier is issued two JSLIST.”

His no sounded a lot like a yes. We did what people in our situation always do, watched movies on TV, read, ate and slept. Given various radiation levels at select times, I was able to ascertain that the peak radiation level was probably around 1,035R. Plus or minus a bit, it's really hard to be sure when you lack the means to measure it accurately. We had a conservative protection factor of 7,191,085, ergo, the radiation level in the shelter was below the normal background level.

It was then that I just sat and thought about all of the Patriot Fiction stories I'd read. There was probably no one as prepared as Percy had been. Rick and Lisa more or less proved my point about salvaging. In most of the stories, the people died, but it was usually due to BGs or some disease. Dubya gave Rick a promotion to bird colonel and put him in charge. Talk about a cliff hanging ending, Paradise, really left me wondering about the broken test tubes or vials. Not all bad things are as big as a bullet.

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About 343 hours after the radiation peaked, the outside level was at ~1R. It had hit ~100R at 7 hours and ~10R at 49 hours. I figured it was time to bring the discussion of self-protection up again.

“Derek we need to have another meeting to discuss self-protection.”

“Why so soon, we still have 85 days in the shelter?”

“People need to be able to use whatever weapon they end up with. What I'd like you to do is training on each of the weapons we have in our armory. Everyone 16 and up should attend. You can take your time and make sure they know all of the weapons inside and out. They need to know how to sight them in, breathing control and how to clean them.”

“Give me a day or two to go through the weapons and figure out some kind of syllabus.”

I wanted to attend his lecture on the AR-15. It would end up with me attending them all, no doubt. I knew a fair amount various firearms but a person is never too old to learn. If you are totally opposed to firearms, get baseball bat. However, you'd be ill advised to go up against someone with a firearm. A firearm is just another tool, like a hammer or a knife.

He came to me 3 days later with his notes and wanted me to look them over. It was an outline and covered topics. He said he could use the same outline for each firearm and had notes in the outline indicating differences he wanted to point out. He also had a roll of dimes that he wanted to use to teach everyone to have a smooth trigger squeeze. I thought we used pennies in basic training, it must be inflation. He made snap caps out of empty brass and pencil erasers. Altogether, we spent about 2 weeks on the gun training. I got better on handling the Bushmaster A3 and that was all I wanted.

After that I dug out my military movies and watched us win WW II and kick some Arab butt. When I got tired of that, I began to organize the files on my computer, especially those dealing with fallout. At one month we were down to about 412mR/hr and at 2 months just under 200mR/hr. At 100 days (3.3 months) the reading was about 103mR/hr and it was time to go check on things. I dug out my winter coat, boots, mittens, long johns and was ready to go. I took the shotgun and my .45. Derek and John both had the Bushmasters and Damon a shotgun.

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“Temperature?”

“Let me get a scarf, I don’t want to catch cold. Are we ready?”

“Yes, we’ll go to Condition 1 before we move the ramp cover.”

“Will it move?”

“Sure, but we might get snow on the ramp.”

“Damon, there’s a snow shovel in the generator room, you’d better get it.”

I decided to climb the ramp today because I had people with me. We’d talked about those handrails but never put them in. Some climbed ahead of me and moved the ramp cover. That caused snow to fall into the ramp and Damon had to shovel it. By the time I got to the top, the way was clear, and I could stop and catch my breath. There was less snow that I thought there would be but more than the remainder were accustomed to.

Damon cleared a path on the deck and I went in and raised the thermostat from 55° to 70°. The pipes all had heat tapes even though I was told I wouldn’t need them. Maybe this wasn’t Davenport, Iowa where we had our first mobile home, but the lessons we learned were burned into our memories. If you live in a mobile home, it’s a very good idea to tape, and then insulate, the pipes. You can use the kind of tape that only kicks in when the temperature gets low or install a separate switch to power the heat tapes.

Our home was fine and I checked it over carefully. Meanwhile Joe came topside with the portable starter cum air bottle and went to work on Derek’s truck. He pulled the battery and replaced it with a fully charged battery from the basement. Derek filled his tank with stabilized gas and when Joe turned the key, it ground then fired up.

“Guess we didn’t get any EMP. Did everyone remember to leave their furnaces on?”

“On Labor Day Weekend, you’re kidding, right?”

“Are you all on natural gas?”

I got several nods; it probably wouldn't have made a difference. We climbed aboard the pickup and headed out to check on various homes. A couple of places in Gassville had clearly been broken into and several more were burned to the ground. It was a while before we saw our first body. It was hard to tell with the snow on the ground. Derek's house was a block of ice and there was no electricity so even if he had natural gas, he couldn't fire the furnace. We spent several hours outside checking homes, gathering clean clothes and even some firearms but it was the same everywhere, surreal at best.

John had a list of drugs he'd put together by talking to people and I had a list of our drugs committed to memory. We found a drug store that hadn't been broken into and broke into it. We cleaned the shelves of the drugs we took and I added a few things listed on my antibiotics list, the real stuff instead of pet meds. I also grabbed more syringes and what Humalin 70/30 was available. It was in an unpowered refrigerator which kept it from freezing. We also took some other things, feminine hygiene supplies, Band-Aids, etc. When we got back, I checked on the house and it was 70° so I set the thermostat to 72° and we all returned to the basement.

"The only house that's livable at the moment is ours, people, sorry. There appears to be no utilities and Flippin and Gassville. We stocked up on meds for everyone, see John. There are also some things for the ladies. We have 2 cords of firewood but only one portable generator."

"I can get propane tanks and fill them with the tanker," Art offered. "There's more propane where that came from."

"What about jets or orifices for the appliances?"

"We have some at the shop; we sometimes have to switch peoples appliances over to propane."

"What size of tanks are available?"

"Mostly 550 mostly, a few 1,100 gallon size. I know where we can get about 6 of the RS12000 LP fuel generators. They'll only burn a little over a gallon per hour at 25% power."

"Is there enough propane available for 6 families?"

"For a few years, yes."

I needed to do a head count. Sharon and I had a generator, we were ok. Derek and Mary would need one, as would John, Art, Bob and Joe. We'd have to find an empty house to put the girls and their kids in and maybe one for Damon. That made 7 generators and sets of tanks. Plus, Gassville has a ¼ million gallon water tower and if we could power the pumps, Gassville would have running water and hopefully sewer. We needed

none of it, we had our own well and septic system. Darn, I forgot Mary's cousins and Aunt and Uncle. Before this was over, we'd need about 10 generators.

"Dad, they have 4 portable diesel generators in Mountain Home at the Armory."

"What about fuel?"

"We have some JP8."

"How about some fun things, a Ma Deuce or an Mk-19 comes to mind?"

"Sorry, no."

"M1114s?"

"Eight in running condition, but no weapons."

"No M1114s with the CROWS?"

"We have one but it hasn't been repaired. Ok, that means we have one remote controlled Ma Deuce."

"Maybe we can get Joe to repair it. Any spare SINCGARS?"

"Yes and replacement vehicle antennas."

"That's a start. We can use those instead of phones. Art, what would it take to install tanks, fill them and install the generators?"

"Joe can help me haul the tanks and Bob can wire in the generators. If we have the necessary jets, we can have all of the homes up and heated in a couple of days."

"Good, now what about the City water supply for Gassville?"

"I'll have to check it all out, but no doubt there are frozen pipes."

"Ok, I can supply well water for a while. Please make sure my propane tanks are topped off. John, are you sure you want to go back to Flippin? We've have better security if you stayed in Gassville."

"Its home and we won't be alone, there will be 4 families."

"Derek, hadn't you better give John some of the stuff you're storing in the armory?"

"I suppose it doesn't matter now. I'll give him one box of LAWs and one box of grenades."

Although they had a M1114 in for repair, and it had the CROWS, he didn't say anything about .50 caliber ammo. Ammo isn't usually stored in Armories, rather in distribution points. He'd know where that was, but getting there could be a problem. If I had to guess, I'd say Fort Chafee. Although our house was warm, we spent the night in the shelter. I suggested to Sharon that we should do that until everyone could leave.

"I'm sick of this place."

"No more than I am. Tomorrow you can go up to the house for the day. You can take people with you because they probably feel the same as you and I do. I know you don't like to handle guns, but you're going to have to take something with you, probably a Hi-Power and a shotgun. I think I'll move my wheelchair to the house, Damon cleared off some of the snow."

"How bad is the snow?"

"John said that for this part of the country, it was pretty bad. We've seen much worse snow in Iowa, and other than being cold, it isn't that bad."

"How cold is it?"

"According to the weather thingy, it gets down close to zero at night and up to freezing in the daytime. We had weather like that in Palmdale."

The weather thingy was a Davis weather station, I forget the model. I had it hardwired and the cable came in with the antenna cables. It didn't tell you everything, but it told you the outside data and the inside data wherever you had it. When I had it upstairs, it was wireless. It was just another of my boy toys. Speaking of boy toys, I'm happy now that I didn't get the Tac-50. I couldn't even lift it, let alone fire it. I knew because Derek's AR-50 weighed about the same as a Tac-50.

"Derek, do you know where we can get ammo for the CROWS?"

"I do. I don't know if we can get there. That will keep for now; we have other things we need to get done sooner."

"What is your highest priority?"

"Food."

"We can hit Wally World in Flippin and Mountain Home."

"If somebody didn't beat us to it, we can."

"What do you want to do?"

“While the others find and install power and get the propane set up, I thought that Damon and I could go looking for food. Once we have the food secure, we can worry about bigger weapons.”

“If you’re going to Wally World, I can give you John’s and my drug lists and you can look around. I also have a list of other drugs you can look for.”

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The terrorists could have released a biological weapon after they detonated the 24 bombs, but didn’t so far as I know. After a nuclear event, or events, odds favor an outbreak of disease anyway. Typhoid and Cholera come to mind. However:

Cryptosporidium infection
(Cryptosporidiosis, pronounced krip-toe-spo-rid-ee-oh-sis)

Escherichia coli O157:H7 infection (E. coli infection)

Giardia infection
(Giardiasis, pronounced GEE-are-DYE-uh-sis)

Hemolytic uremic syndrome
Commonly caused by Escherichia coli O157:H7. Results in acute kidney failure.

Hepatitis A

Cholera
Cholera is an acute, diarrheal illness caused by infection of the intestine with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.

Typhoid
Typhoid fever is a life-threatening illness caused by the bacterium *Salmonella Typhi*.

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The list wasn't meant to be exhaustive, just to include some of the diseases likely to occur in filth and with a poor water supply. You can get more information on them at the CDC website. It gives new meaning to the expression cleanliness is next to Godliness. But then, all of the squirrels have a gallon of liquid Dial antibacterial soap, don't they? Plus a couple of boxes of examination gloves to change their litter boxes, right? N-100 aren't that costly, but N-95 will do in a pinch. Because of the H5N1 (avian) flu scare, most people probably had Tamiflu, right? Oh that's right, you're a sheeple and the government will give it to you if you need it. ~\$50 a card with a prescription, less than life insurance costs. Remember New Orleans!!!

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"Give me the list, but no promises. We'll probably all end up in a camp somewhere."

"That won't happen if Flight ER Doc is right Derek. For all of the faults that are attributed to President Bush, I don't for a minute believe that he would go along with that. When the truth came out about New Orleans, Brownie, who was doing one heck of a job, lost the job. Personally, I lay much of that problem on Chertoff, but once they incorporated FEMA into Homeland Security, it went to Hell in a handcart. The remainder of the problem was the fault of Ray Nagin and Kathleen Blanco."

"I talked to him, ya know?"

"Talked to whom, Damon?"

"Flight ER Doc. I needed information about rabies for that story I wrote."

"I looked it up on CDC. I downloaded something, but I didn't have time to read it. That reminds me, we'll have to watch for feral dogs. I have a pdf file on them too."

I had no way to test the well water to determine if it were contaminated. Normally that only occurs with flooding or seepage from manufacturing plants. You could write what I knew on that subject on a piece of paper that would pass through the eye of a needle. Perhaps the main thing was it didn't click. The well had been tested when we bought the land and it passed.

"Is your well ok?"

"I don't know John, but if you think about it you may."

"The water for the shelter, where did it come from?"

"The well."

“If it was bad, we’d all be dead?”

“Could be. I don’t feel any sicker than I did when we went in.”

“Pretty bad, huh?”

“Shhh, don’t tell anyone.”

“Guys like you live forever.”

“I hope so. I figure the water is ok or as good as it was when we bought the land. They tested it and didn’t say it was bad.”

“I found some milk cans and washed them out. Is it ok if I fill them?”

“Help yourself, John. I wish you’d reconsider and move to Gassville.”

“You could reconsider and move to Flippin.”

“We can agree to disagree.”

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Mary told me they’d lived in that home for a long while and she also could see why I didn’t want to move. They were renting but their landlord wasn’t anywhere to be found. I suggested that there were several empty homes closer to our place. She didn’t seem to be too enthused about moving. I’m only putting down the conversations I can remember in case you’re wondering why there aren’t many verbatim conversations.

Damon and Derek found a semi-tractor and got it to run. Next, they found an empty trailer and used pallet jacks to load it. I stayed home because it was eerie here with no people around. When they had what they wanted from Flippin, they brought the semi home.

“Dad, I got the drugs, they’re in some boxes in the sleeper. I also got ammo but only the stuff we could use. We’ll go to Mountain Home tomorrow.”

“How full is the semi?”

“Packed.”

“Where am I going to store that?”

“For now in the trailer. When everyone is out of the basement, we’ll move some of it there.”

“I hope it fits.”

“Not all of it, I plan to divide it up.”

“Can you find another empty trailer?”

“Probably in Mountain Home.”

The following day they went to Mountain Home. It was a different story there; there were more than a few people around. Mountain Home had a median age of 53, it was a retirement community. The people had used the empty semi to create a roadblock on 412/62. Sgt. Bubba Jones was the Police representative at that roadblock. (Yes, really, you can go to the Mountain Home Police Department and see his picture.) He asked for Identification and Derek produced his Arkansas DL and Damon his Iowa DL. Then, Derek fished out his Military ID and told Sgt. Jones he was with the 142nd Fires Brigade, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment there at Fort Chaffee.



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Gary,

Go for it! Anything else you need just let me know. I copyright them so people won't put them up as their own... "for the good of the cause". I'm sure you know the drill. I'll cc this to Russ because he is XO of Medical Corps. Howzat?

Chuck

PS If things get real bad I'm expecting an outbreak of Typhoid. Doxy won't touch it so you might want to find some Cipro just in case.

Here it is:

All antibiotics are not alike. They do their job in different ways.

Trying to remember what guidelines apply to which antibiotic can be confusing. There are, however, general guidelines which can be observed and will take the guesswork out of what to do.

Remember, these are “General”.

1) Antibiotics are NOT good for you. Antibiotics are for killing a living organism – as in a disease. If you do not have a disease, then do not take them.

2) Antibiotics will not kill a virus. Antibiotics do not help flu or colds because flu and colds are caused by a virus. Do not take them for colds or flu.

3) If you have an allergic reaction, quit taking the antibiotic and, if possible, change antibiotics. Allergic reactions may include one or more of the following: rash, intense itching, hives, vomiting, swelling and other unusual symptoms.

4) More is not better. Read the label. If the antibiotic is supposed to be taken 3 times a day then take it 3 times a day. If it says to take 4 times a day then that is what you should do.

5) Antibiotics can increase the effect of anticoagulants. Some antibiotics will make the effects of anticoagulants—such as Coumadin—more intense.

6) Unless specifically directed, two different antibiotics should not be taken together. For instance, the Penicillins and Tetracyclines will cancel each other out.

7) Do not take antibiotics with antacids, certain supplements, laxatives or food.

Certain antibiotics will combine with metals such as calcium, iron, magnesium and aluminum and render the antibiotic useless or less effective. Some supplements contain calcium, magnesium or iron.

Laxatives may contain magnesium. Food often has calcium such as from animals. Antibiotics should be taken either an hour before a meal or two hours after.

8) Antibiotics interfere with birth control pills. Some antibiotics can render birth control pills less effective. If someone starts taking antibiotics while counting on birth control pills then they can become pregnant.

9) Antibiotics make humans susceptible to sunburn.

10) Antibiotics will give you diarrhea.

General Guideline “dose” for antibiotics used for preventing symptoms from a biological attack (for prophylaxis). The number of days to take the antibiotic will depend on the agent used—example: Anthrax 60 to 100 days.

Doxycycline (Taken orally)

Adult (8 years and older or weigh more than 100 pounds--45kg): 100mg by mouth every 12 hours. Children (Children under 8 years or less than 100 pounds—45kg) 2.2mg per kg of weight, taken by mouth every 12 hours (1kg equals 2.2 pounds)

Ciprofloxacin (Taken orally)

Adult (8 years and older or weigh more than 100 pounds--45kg): 500mg by mouth every 12 hours.

Children (Children under 8 years or less than 100 pounds—45kg) 10-15 mg/kg taken by mouth every 12 hours, not to exceed the total of 1,000mg per day

Amoxicillin Anthrax exposure: Alternative for allergies to Doxycycline and Ciprofloxacin

Adult (8 years and older or weigh more than 100 pounds--45kg): 500mg by mouth every 8 hours.

Children (Children under 8 years or less than 100 pounds—45kg) 80 mg/kg/day divided every 8 hr, not to exceed 500 mg/dose taken by mouth every 8 hours

Note: Amoxicillin is not a drug-of-choice for most biological weapons.

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Funny, I was speculating when I mentioned Typhoid. It makes sense when you think about it, in the aftermath, hygiene will be very difficult.

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Typhoid fever is a life-threatening illness caused by the bacterium *Salmonella Typhi*. In the United States about 400 cases occur each year, and 75% of these are acquired while traveling internationally. Typhoid fever is still common in the developing world, where it affects about 21.5 million persons each year.

Typhoid fever can be prevented and can usually be treated with antibiotics. If you are planning to travel outside the United States, you should know about typhoid fever and what steps you can take to protect yourself.

Salmonella Typhi lives only in humans. Persons with typhoid fever carry the bacteria in their bloodstream and intestinal tract. In addition, a small number of persons, called carriers, recover from typhoid fever but continue to carry the bacteria. Both ill persons and carriers shed *S. Typhi* in their feces (stool).

You can get typhoid fever if you eat food or drink beverages that have been handled by a person who is shedding *S. Typhi* or if sewage contaminated with *S. Typhi* bacteria

gets into the water you use for drinking or washing food. Therefore, typhoid fever is more common in areas of the world where hand washing is less frequent and water is likely to be contaminated with sewage.

Once *S. Typhi* bacteria are eaten or drunk, they multiply and spread into the bloodstream. The body reacts with fever and other signs and symptoms.

Two basic actions can protect you from typhoid fever:

1. Avoid risky foods and drinks.
2. Get vaccinated against typhoid fever.

It may surprise you, but watching what you eat and drink when you travel is as important as being vaccinated. This is because the vaccines are not completely effective. Avoiding risky foods will also help protect you from other illnesses, including travelers' diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, and hepatitis A.

“Boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it”

- If you drink water, buy it bottled or bring it to a rolling boil for 1 minute before you drink it. Bottled carbonated water is safer than uncarbonated water.
- Ask for drinks without ice unless the ice is made from bottled or boiled water. Avoid popsicles and flavored ices that may have been made with contaminated water.
- Eat foods that have been thoroughly cooked and that are still hot and steaming.
- Avoid raw vegetables and fruits that cannot be peeled. Vegetables like lettuce are easily contaminated and are very hard to wash well.
- When you eat raw fruit or vegetables that can be peeled, peel them yourself. (Wash your hands with soap first.) Do not eat the peelings.
- Avoid foods and beverages from street vendors. It is difficult for food to be kept clean on the street, and many travelers get sick from food bought from street vendors.

If you are traveling to a country where typhoid is common, you should consider being vaccinated against typhoid. Visit a doctor or travel clinic to discuss your vaccination options.

Remember that you will need to complete your vaccination at least 1 week before you travel so that the vaccine has time to take effect. Typhoid vaccines lose effectiveness after several years; if you were vaccinated in the past, check with your doctor to see if it is time for a booster vaccination. Taking antibiotics will not prevent typhoid fever; they only help treat it.

The chart below provides basic information on typhoid vaccines that are available in the United States.

- Ty21a (Vivotif Berna, Swiss Serum and Vaccine Institute) is given by capsule, consisting of 4 doses 2 days apart and protects you for 5 years.

- ViCPS (Typhim Vi, Pasteur Merieux) is an injection given once at age 2 a requiring a booster every 2 years.
- The parenteral heat-phenol-inactivated vaccine (manufactured by Wyeth-Ayerst) has been discontinued.

Persons with typhoid fever usually have a sustained fever as high as 103° to 104° F (39° to 40° C). They may also feel weak, or have stomach pains, headache, or loss of appetite. In some cases, patients have a rash of flat, rose-colored spots. The only way to know for sure if an illness is typhoid fever is to have samples of stool or blood tested for the presence of *S. Typhi*.

If you suspect you have typhoid fever, see a doctor immediately. If you are traveling in a foreign country, you can usually call the US consulate for a list of recommended doctors.

You will probably be given an antibiotic to treat the disease. Three commonly prescribed antibiotics are ampicillin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, and ciprofloxacin. Persons given antibiotics usually begin to feel better within 2 to 3 days, and deaths rarely occur. However, persons who do not get treatment may continue to have fever for weeks or months, and as many as 20% may die from complications of the infection.

Even if your symptoms seem to go away, you may still be carrying *S. Typhi*. If so, the illness could return, or you could pass the disease to other people. In fact, if you work at a job where you handle food or care for small children, you may be barred legally from going back to work until a doctor has determined that you no longer carry any typhoid bacteria.

If you are being treated for typhoid fever, it is important to do the following:

- Keep taking the prescribed antibiotics for as long as the doctor has asked you to take them.
- Wash your hands carefully with soap and water after using the bathroom and do not, prepare or serve food for other people. This will lower the chance that you will pass the infection on to someone else.
- Have your doctor perform a series of stool cultures to ensure that no *S. Typhi* bacteria remain in your body.

Content source: Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases / Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases

Some of these diseases can get you if you live on the upper west side or the lower eastside. They are equal opportunity diseases. In the summer, after it warms up, we'll have to worry about West Nile and various types of viruses carried by mosquitoes. There is malaria in Mexico, so don't discount the possibility of our getting it here. Sorry, I guess I told you that before. I haven't said this yet (in this story): prepare for the worst and hope for the best. (ATM, there is a worldwide shortage of ammo. You'd better get it

while you can. This story may come true, or at least parts of it. Possibly before the end of 2006.)

I know some of you have considered issues raised in these stories and that is gratifying. A generator won't do you any good if you don't have fuel for it. The cheapest, most simple foods to prepare will carry you for a time, including beans, rice and pasta. Their big advantage is that they're inexpensive and filling. They can also be prepared over a fire in a Dutch oven. You WILL need a means of self-defense, count on it. Remember what I said about going up against a gun with a baseball bat. In the movie 'Raiders of the Lost Ark', Harrison Ford was ill from food poisoning and in the scene where he was supposed to defeat the guy with the sword, he simply shot him. That was very realistic. The people you are likely to encounter probably won't have baseball bats. Be careful out there.

o

"I haven't heard that your unit was activated."

"I haven't either Sgt., we just came to check. I work here in town at the post office."

"Post Office is closed."

"I figured it would be. What are the chances of my brother and me getting to the Armory?"

"Two, slim and none. We already cleaned it out. What were you looking for?"

"SINCGARS radios and M1114 HMMWVs, plus fuel for the vehicles."

"The only vehicle left is a broken down hummer."

"That may be the one I wanted. We hoped to pick it up and have the engine repaired by our mechanic. If you go there, you see my name on the rosters."

"Follow me and we'll take a look."

"That's the one, the one up on blocks."

"You can fix that?"

"You bet."

"What's the thing on top?"

"It's called CROWS (Common Remotely Operated Weapons System). It's functional, but there isn't any ammo."

“How do I know you’re supposed to have it?”

“I guess you don’t, I couldn’t find the L-T over in Gassville.”

“Take it; it won’t do us any good.”

“Damon, give me a hand and let’s get it hooked to a wrecker.”

“What’s wrong with it?”

“Shhh, it only needs brakes. I put the parts in the back with the extra SINCGARS and antennas, plus 4 extra windows. We can pull a 500 gallon fuel trailer of JP8.”

o

It only took Joe a few hours to do the brake job and about a day to install the transparent armor in the window wells. Derek gave Damon a refresher on the vehicle and they headed back to Mountain Home 3 days later for another trailer load of JP8. This time Derek wore his BDUs and made it to the armory without trouble. They topped off the HMMWV and loaded another 500 gallons of JP8. When they got back they drove over to Flippin and picked up a second empty semi-trailer so they could divide up the contents of the first trailer into some kind of order.

The radios were 28 volt and I didn’t have a 28 volt power supply. I used the batteries in the basement to set up the necessary power and we mounted the vehicle antenna on the light pole I was using for a mast. Derek set the channel and then drove over to Flippin to give John a radio and antenna. He also put one in his home so Mary could keep in touch with the rest of us.

“Damon and I are going to get ammo for the machine gun tomorrow.”

“Why don’t you use the 3 belts of APIT you have for now and replace it when you find the ammo?”

“I’m going to take Mary along, can you watch the kids?”

“Pick up some BDUs while you’re at it.”

“If I can.”

“If you can find stripes, I wore 3 back them and Damon was a PO3. They call that a Senior Airman now. I’ll need boots; I wear a civilian size 9½.”

“What pay grade?”

“E-4”

He couldn't find Naval or Air Force rank insignia so Damon and I ended up wearing Corporal pins. He did find boots and brought several sizes. I found a pair that fit and got him to show me how to blouse my trousers. Believe me, I didn't much look like a soldier, especially wearing European designed web gear and riding around in a wheelchair. He did give me 2 LAW rockets and 4 hand grenades. Sharon made me another scabbard for the wheelchair. I think I need a new set of batteries, the ones I have don't seem to hold a charge. They found enough ammo for the Ma Deuce for several fire fights. The CROWS system uses a large ammo case limiting the number of times the crew needs to leave the vehicle to start another belt. I have to make one point about the 25mm ammo they use in the LAV-25. The target ammo (793) is used in several combat situations because of its ability to penetrate soft targets.

o

“How much .50 caliber do we have?”

“Enough. I got the combat ammo, AP and APIT in the 4 to 1 mix.”

“When are you going to sort the food and distribute it?”

“We'll need a couple of days to sort it, and then we'll deliver it. Everyone has propane and electricity now and we're using the SINCGARS for comms. Once we get everyone supplied, we'll move the remainder to the basement and keep the empty trailers to store future salvage.”

“What's it going to take to restore water in Flippin?”

“We haven't looked. You've been giving John water so it wasn't a high priority. Flippin gets its water from Bull Shoals Lake. All they need is a large generator to pump the water and purify it.”

“Why don't you pull one of those trailers and block 412 east?”

“Ok, we'll do that, but who are we going to get to man the roadblock?”

“I don't know; we don't really have enough people.”

“Have you sorted through the drugs?”

“Yes, Sharon and I took what we use and I set out John's drugs. You'll have to give them to him and let him distribute them; I don't know who gets what. We have enough for about 3 years so we'll have to find some more. I missed a couple items and I wrote them down. Those are the drugs I use in my nebulizer. No hurry, I have enough for the moment.”

“What do you use?”

“Albuterol and Atrovent. If you can’t find Atrovent look for Combivent or DuoNeb, it’s a combination of Albuterol and Atrovent. Anticholinergics relax and enlarge (dilate) the airways in the lungs, making breathing easier (bronchodilators). They may protect the airways from spasms that can suddenly cause the airway to become narrower (bronchospasm). They also may reduce the amount of mucus produced by the airways.”

Survival Story – Chapter 17

While he was in Iraq, Derek used the CROWS system equipped with the Ma Deuce. He took time to train Mary on its use and from that point forward, I baby sat and the three of them used the Hummer and a trailer. They made a second pass through Flippin, gathering things that might prove beneficial in the future. These were sorted and divided among those who had sheltered in our shelter.

I didn't know about Russ but if he was able to implement his plan, he was well sheltered and probably out there helping the folks in Payson. Either that or maybe Sharon Packer had been able to offer him and his wife space in her shelter. I had a fair idea of some of his firearms and he was in pretty good shape on that score. When I dropped him a note and said he was an expert, he disputed that. As far as I'm concerned, he is an expert in some of the most important aspects of post calamity survival.

Lacking any real combat skills or the physical ability to do much, my talents were best used guarding the home place. I mounted a manpack SINCGARS in my wheelchair after we found me new wheelchair batteries. The manpack, using 12v batteries, was a model RT-1523E. To complement the SINCGARS, everyone had a Spearhead and everything was set to the same channel. The Spearheads went about 1¼ pounds, had 8 hours of operation on one battery and 3 power selections, 4W, 2W and 100 mW.

o

It seems that about the only thing they hadn't cleared out of the armory and stored offsite were their weapons and the Hummer that needed the brake job. When Derek mentioned that his LT lived in Gassville, I began hoping he'd turn up. The butterbar had been promoted from SFC to 2nd Lieutenant during 2006 and he was an electrical engineer. He was also a Mustang; they make good officers, remember Chesty Puller?

In no time at all, the salvaging operation was over and our share was organized and in the basement. Our ghost town turned out to have a few survivors, as did Flippin. This was a retirement area for fishermen being as close to Bull Shoals as it was. There are differences between generations and given a choice I preferred the older crowd. Some had fought in Vietnam and anyone who could afford to retire probably knew the value of a dollar.

The next order of business was to get the survivors organized and clean-up Gassville, there were bodies to be located and buried. Although, technically, we were newcomers and for the most part outsiders, I got off my duff and went with Damon, Derek and Mary to meet the remaining residents. This wasn't a rich community, but it was home to a group of very nice people. Basements had been converted to adequate shelters surprising me. With a generator on the town's water supply, only phone, electricity and natural gas were missing.

I shook hands with many Johnny Reb's and more than a few displaced Yankees. We began to share stores out of the basement and long discussions were held to decide what to do next. I always carried a small bottle of Purell hand sanitizer, shaking hands is one way to transfer those tiny little BGs and we all know it's impolite to shake hands wearing gloves.

One fulltime, one reserve policemen and the LT were among the survivors so we had some law and order the same as Mountain Home. Over in Flippin, several of their officers survived and they were busy working to get Flippin up and running. The LT gave Derek a field promotion to SFC and reminded Damon and I that we weren't real Corporals.

According to information on the Ham bands, the country had lost up to 70% of its population between the terrorist attacks and the war. It wasn't long before a Mountain Home radio station got its act together and began broadcasting local information. A person could create an obituary based on what they carried as news. It was déjà vu and reminded me of Charles City after the tornado hit. I got more than one chuckle when I showed up in a wheelchair that looked like a portable arsenal.

"Has anyone thought to look on the highways for abandoned vehicles?" I asked.

"I guess we didn't think of that," the LT replied.

"This country has been living hand to mouth for years and you should be able to find some grocery supply trucks and maybe some fuel tankers. Its salvage LT, not stealing. A fair share of your Company lived here in Gassville; you should be able to put together a couple of squads or even a Platoon. We have a semi-tractor running and got the M1114 with the CROWS repaired so you do have a little firepower to protect your people. It's just a suggestion, but if I were in charge, I'd be out salvaging."

"Why don't you organize that?"

"What's to organize? If you get the stuff, we can inventory it and set up a community dispersal point. BTW Brownie is doing one heck of a job and FEMA should be here in a couple of years."

o

I believe I made my point. They got organized and went shopping. I got labeled as a consultant and when they couldn't figure something out, I'd give them my 2¢ worth. Opinions are like assholes, everyone has one, and I was great at making suggestions, some good and some bad. Frankly, I was more interesting in keeping my family together. My adrenalin surge finally wore off and I was more tired than I could remember.

"What about the money in the bank in Charles City?"

“What about it? Assuming there is a Charles City, they had the money invested to produce income. It’s a long way to Charles City, assuming we could get there, and if the bank were still there, they wouldn’t give me any money.”

“Then we’re broke?”

“What’s new about that? Hell, even if they did give us the money, as far as I know there’s no government to back up the FRNs. We were never able to buy any gold or silver. We have 4 children and they are our security now. Art will keep our propane topped off and Joe will repair anything that breaks. If we need a plumber or electrician, we can contact Bob. Don’t worry about it, everything will be ok.”

She stopped that discussion even though I was pretty sure she wasn’t satisfied. For crying out loud, we had indoor toilets, running water and a generator. I could remember when I had none of those things. Sharon could too, and after she thought about it, she came back and said she was sorry. She even offered to fix chili and rice for supper. She still had that cash reserve fund although I had no idea how much was in it. I was content to go to the basement and count my cases of ammo.

Derek didn’t approve of the ammo I bought from Ammoman. It was packed loose and labeled ‘For Training Purposes Only’. That meant it was mixed lots left over from production runs at the Lake City ammo plant. I only had 500 rounds of the M118LR. The 175gr bullet needed the 1 turn in 10, not the 1 turn in 11, to realize its maximum accuracy. However, my rifle was sighted in for 250 yards so I didn’t think it mattered. I wasn’t happy anyway; I didn’t have any cowboy guns.

o

It was awfully cold that first winter. In late April, the snow started to melt off and by May, it turned hot and humid. Damon moved my radio equipment up to my den and I spent most of my days sitting in front of the radios, listening. As it was, I could keep pretty good track of what was going on in the area. That improved when Damon found me a trunking police band scanner. As far as I was concerned, life was back to normal.

“We’re done salvaging semi-trailers, Dad.”

“I listened, all things considered, you made out pretty well. What’s new?”

“The local police went to Mountain Home and recovered the weapons that were taken from the Armory. We made another ammo run and got what we could. I suppose there’s enough food now to keep the survivors in Mountain Home, Gassville and Flippin going for a year. What does your crystal ball tell you about growing food this summer?”

“I don’t really have a crystal ball, you know. After a nuclear winter, we’ll have a nuclear summer. It will be very hot. One of the main concerns will be ultraviolet radiation from the sun. A Nuclear summer is a hypothetical scenario resulting from nuclear warfare

that would follow a nuclear winter. In this scenario, the amount of water in the stratosphere would increase, causing greenhouse warming of the surface. The nuclear detonations would also produce oxides of nitrogen that would then deplete the ozone around the Earth. This layer screens out UV-B radiation from the Sun, which causes genetic damage to life forms on the surface. Possibilities of any existing species to survive in this extreme condition will be less. The absorption of ozone also results in a heating of the stratosphere, which results in a further contribution to greenhouse heating. But, it's only a theory."

"Can we grow gardens?"

"Yes, there is a case of heirloom seeds in the basement. They'll produce seed that you can use to grow food next year."

"I know what heirloom seeds are, where did you buy them?"

"Walton Feed and the Ark Institute. Flight ER Doc bought his seeds at arkinstitute dot com."

"Do we have canning jars?"

"Only a few, Sharon didn't want to save them and I never got off my behind and bought any. What you guys should do is make a house to house search and look for Mason jars. We have a 7 quart pressure canner if you can find a new sealing ring for it. Somewhere, I have the Ball Canning Book. Sharon started to save canning jars when the terrorists struck so she has a few. I think she even bought lids and rings, but I'm not sure."

"When was the last time you canned?"

"Uh, 1979, just before we bought the trailer in Davenport."

"What did you can?"

"Green beans and bread and butter pickles. I think we did about 47 quarts of pickles and 126 quarts of green beans. If you look on my computer, you will find a set of USDA canning guides and more in the pdf files. If you can find an All American Pressure Canner, get either a 30 or 41.5 quart, which will let you can either 14 or 19 quarts at once. Plus that canner doesn't have gasket to wear out."

"Why didn't you buy one?"

"It was on my list, probably a 30 quart."

"Where did you find out about it?"

“Canning Pantry, but more precisely on the Internet. If I had a dollar for every search I made on the Internet, we’d live in a stone castle surrounded by a moat and have Mk-19s and Ma Deuces in the towers. Most times, I included the links to information in my stories. The stories weren’t really that good, but the information was a gold mine.”

“Why did you write the stories?”

“Desert Doc said he was moving to Colorado and suggested starting a survival community. That’s when I wrote *The Ark*. I sat at my computer all day and needed something to do. So, I did research and wrote stories around the research. Later I began to analyze the news and to include that in the stories. I was predicting WW III back in 2004.”

“Just how long have you been predicting WW III?”

“Since October of 1962.”

o

With all of the downtime, I started to read the files on my computer. I wasn’t going to read those Field Manuals, they were only for reference. Since Derek was interested in canning, I started to read the pdf files I’d downloaded from Canning Pantry. The source of the material was the Utah State University Extension and the University of Florida in cooperation with several other State University Extension Services and the USDA. It had one advantage; it was handy, and easier to access than the Ball Canning Book. It was also free.

We started the onion seeds to get shoots we could plant. A person can’t really go wrong if they follow the directions. There was more than one vegetable I wouldn’t eat like broccoli so there were plenty of seeds to share. There are also those categories that I’ll eat reluctantly, like cabbage. I don’t care if it’s good for me, I don’t like the taste. All the foods I do like probably aren’t the best choices. One of Derek’s favorite foods was Okra. I gave him the zucchini seed and told him to use his imagination.

We didn’t have to reallocate a garden tiller, John had one. And, of course, I had gasoline. I gave John some of my seeds and he shared them with the Flippin survivors. I got put on a spot and ended up sharing some of my seeds with the folks there in Gassville. One sure way to keep them from stealing food out of the garden was to let them grow their own. Somehow I doubted I get a statue on the Courthouse lawn; it did get us left alone.

Desirous of being a good neighbor, lacking the needed cash and some insight from my late father persuaded me not to fence our property in. Whoever said ‘Good fences make good neighbors’ probably didn’t have a friend in the world. I did, however, win a few friends when I hung that Gadsden Flag. What is usually called “The Confederate Flag” or “The Confederate Battle Flag” (actually the Navy Jack) is still a widely-recognized symbol. The display of the flag is a controversial and very emotional issue, generally

because of disagreement over exactly what it symbolizes. To many in the US South it is simply a symbol of their heritage and pride in their ancestors who held out during years of war under terrible odds and sacrifice. Couldn't fly one because I didn't have one. The Gadsden flag eliminated the controversy associated with choosing a flag that would please everyone.

Not only was I getting ready for growing season, I was pondering our future. Did we have one? George W. Bush was alive before the missiles started coming, where was he now? Probably in seclusion (hiding) but where, certainly not New Orleans. California wouldn't have been a good choice either, not after the big one, terrorist strikes and WW III. If he went back to Crawford, he'd have to put up with his new neighbor, Cindy Sheehan. Offutt? Holloman? Barksdale? Not that it mattered, we weren't getting any national news.

I looked up one April morning and swore I saw a contrail. It had to be a military jet, the airlines weren't flying. I rushed back into the house, set the radio to VHF Guard (121.5mhz) and said, "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday." Nobody answered so I switched the radio to UHF Guard (243.00mhz) and kept calling. Either the pilot didn't hear me, was out of range or was ignoring me.

"I'm telling you I saw a plane."

"Did you try to raise them on Guard?"

"VHF and UHF, the pilot didn't respond."

"Only 1 plane?"

"Yes, why?"

"Military jets usually fly in pairs, the lead and a wingman."

"If they did that, it should have left 2 contrails."

"Each engine leaves a contrail, Dad. You might have gotten 4 contrails with 2 twin engine jets or a single 4 engine jet. Are you sure it wasn't a Cirrus cloud?"

"I guess it doesn't matter, the winds aloft blew the cloud away and I can't prove it."

"What have you been doing to keep busy?"

"Reading the books on gardening."

"And?"

“You get the zucchini. The book says it grows like weeds. Why do they always put things in those seed packs that people don’t like?”

“For instance?”

“Swiss chard, zucchini.”

“If you don’t like it, give it away.”

“I did. I’d kill for a few pints of fresh strawberries.”

o

On the average, garden vegetables take ~75 days to reach harvest, depending on the variety, etc. That gave us ~105 days to find Mason jars and lids. The younger people did a door to door search and even put an ad up on a bulletin board seeking jars, lids and rings. By now it was apparent that no one was coming to the Bull Shoals Lake area to rescue us. I figured, “Good, then they can’t tell us what to do.”

These days, most of the folks in the area went armed 24/7. There was almost no trouble; an armed society is a polite society. Guns were usually checked anywhere they had liquor or in the churches. There were more churches than establishments with liquor and what liquor there was, was mostly homebrewed beer. It didn’t take some of the folks too long to come up with stills. Those stills only produced raw ethanol; it would need aging to be anything more than Vodka. Somehow, I’d managed to stay on the wagon, maybe I was afraid that if I took a drink I’d die. Contrary to anything medical science may tell you, there isn’t a pill that will cure alcoholism. I won’t bother to explain that, again.

“I’m sorry I missed your birthday, but I did get you a present.”

“Derek, at my age, you sort of quit counting.”

“How old are you now?”

“Uh, 65. I guess I’m in the prime of my life.”

“Does this look familiar?”

“Where did you find a Winchester?”

“One of the abandoned homes. The guy must have been into cowboy action shooting, check this out.”

Before me lay 3 revolvers, all genuine Colts, a 4¾”, a 5½” and a 7½”.

“He couldn’t have been into action shooting, they’re new.”

“Not all of them.”

“These three are.”

“True, but they’re the pick of the litter. We found 6 revolvers, 2 rifles and a couple of coach guns. He had regular .45 Colt and cowboy ammo.”

“Holsters? Scabbards?”

“No scabbards and the gun belts are too small for you.”

“I guess we can come up with a canvas scabbard for the rifle.”

“You won’t have to, I took a road trip.”

“It’s a long way to Laredo, Derek.”

“Maybe that’s why I didn’t go to Laredo.”

“Where did you go?”

“Howard, Kansas.”

“What’s there?”

“A mercantile that sells Fitzpatrick leather.”

“A Laredoan?”

“A Laredoan cross-draw, a Tequila shotgun belt and a bunch of leather scabbards. Plus I got Sharon a John Wayne rig with a really long belt for the 5½” Colt.”

“Funny, I don’t feel dead.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“I must have died and gone to heaven.”

“But wait, there’s more.”

“What else?”

“That would ruin the surprise. I do need to make some measurements.”

“You put any more stuff on this wheelchair and the motor won’t drive it.”

“I got you a new one. It’s a BCW Powerchair Heavy Duty Power Wheelchair that will carry up to 600 pounds. Two 4-pole motors provide the power you need to get you where you’re going. And the BCW electric wheelchair is available with options like custom seating, power recline and power leg lifts to customize the electric wheelchair just for you.”

o

When they came back, I didn’t even notice the wheelchair. It had been modified and had what amounted to a pintle mount in which you could rest a rifle. The new leather scabbards were fitted to the new wheelchair and while I sat there with my jaw on the floor, Derek transferred my weapons from the canvas scabbards on my old chair to the leather scabbards on my new heavy duty chair. Rarely am I at a loss for words.

“Where did you get that?”

“Salvaged it.”

“What kind of scope?”

“Nightforce 12-42x56mm.”

“Where’s Geraldo?”

“What?”

“600 yards...”

“Anyway, there are 10 extra magazines and I loaded them with Raufoss.”

“Did you get one for yourself?”

“Sort of, yes.”

“Magazines?”

“20 of the 5 round plus the ones that came with the uppers.”

“You’re going to need an ammo carrier.”

“I know.”

“Hey, do you want to see my fast draw?”

“Sure.”

“You say go.”

“Go!”

“Uh, Dad, I think maybe you’d better shoot them in the back.”

“I used to be much faster.”

“I sure hope so. Did Sharon like the Duke rig?”

“Yes, she did. She said she wouldn’t wear it in the house. I didn’t know you went to Tennessee.”

“I didn’t, I went to Kansas.”

“Murfreesboro is in Tennessee.”

“I know. My Armalite AR-50 has bit less recoil than your Tac-50.”

“So what?”

“So nothing. Anyway, I got you Hornady A-MAX Match, 10 cases. The hard part was finding you a MUNS, but I found 4 and you get two.”

“Right, Russia is going to come out of that snowstorm and attack us. Oh, alright, I’ll take it, but I don’t know that I’ll ever use it.”

Survival Story – Chapter 18

Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death! Patrick Henry

During Liddy's tenure as a radio talk-show host, many controversial statements have been attributed to him, including giving out John Dean's home phone number in 1993 on the radio when Dean was threatening to sue Liddy for defamation (Dean later won a settlement). Some of his comments lead to condemnation by then-President Bill Clinton.

- August 26, 1994 - Now if the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms comes to disarm you and they are bearing arms, resist them with arms. Go for a head shot; they're going to be wearing bulletproof vests." ... "They've got a big target on there, ATF. Don't shoot at that, because they've got a vest on underneath that. Head shots, head shots.... Kill the sons of bitches.
- September 15, 1994 - If the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms insists upon a firefight, give them a firefight. Just remember, they're wearing flak jackets and you're better off shooting for the head.

Liddy claims that his detractors omit some important context:

"I was talking about a situation in which the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms comes smashing into a house, doesn't say who they are, and their guns are out, they're shooting, and they're in the wrong place. This has happened time and time again. The ATF has gone in and gotten the wrong guy in the wrong place. The law is that if somebody is shooting at you, using deadly force, the mere fact that they are a law enforcement officer, if they are in the wrong, does not mean you are obliged to allow yourself to be killed so your kinfolk can have a wrongful death action. You are legally entitled to defend yourself and I was speaking of exactly those kind of situations. If you're going to do that, you should know that they're wearing body armor so you should use a head shot. Now all I'm doing is stating the law, but all the nuances in there got left out when the story got repeated."

What Liddy didn't tell you was the flak he got from Bill Clinton. It came right after the Oklahoma City Bombing, President Clinton criticized radio talk show hosts. "They spread hate. They leave the impression that, by their very words, violence is acceptable." Clinton did not mention anyone by name, but later singled out the radio host G. Gordon Liddy (who had told his listeners to shoot federal ATF officers, who had illegally entered their homes, in the head rather than the chest because they wear bullet proof vests).

I was busy calculating how much money the rifles and handguns represented. It easily got into 5 figures and gave me a headache. Conversely, it probably meant I never get

another birthday or Christmas present, unless it was ammo. Had the weapons been purchased, the same money probably would have gotten us a new car.

I tried sitting on the front deck and watching vegetables grow but I'm convinced they only grew at night. When it finally warmed up, it got downright hot, and humid. Before the war, the humidity sometimes got up to 98% around midnight. That hadn't bothered me because I was inside with the air conditioner and dehumidifier running. We found one of those camping canopies and put it over the deck allowing me to sit out and not get as red as a radish. I was thinking, "Life is good and getting better." I didn't say it though, I didn't want a jinx. If I said it, it would be just my luck that Yellowstone would blow. Or, possibly a NEO would slam into the planet. If Clarence was still alive, I'm sure he'd be the first person to see it.

This year my cold came early, not August as it usually did but, in June. I broke out the Vitamin C, the ephedrine and my nebulizer doing one breathing treatment about every 4 hours. Most, if not all, colds are caused by a virus, therefore there wasn't any antibiotic to take. There is no cure for the common cold. The most important thing you can do is drink a lot of fluids to keep your body hydrated. This will help prevent another infection from setting in. Avoid drinks like coffee, tea, and colas with caffeine. They rob your system of fluids. As for eating, follow your appetite. If you're not really hungry, try eating simple foods like white rice or broth. (You don't have to take the advice.)

- Chicken soup is comforting, plus the steam helps break up nasal congestion. Ginger seems to settle an upset stomach. A hot toddy may help you sleep, but beware of mixing alcohol with other cold remedies.
- Over-the-counter cold medicines can offer relief from aches and fever. However, doctors no longer believe in suppressing low-grade fever - except in very young and very old people, or people with certain medical conditions such as heart or lung disease. Low-grade fever helps the body fight off infection by suppressing the growth of viruses or bacteria and by activating the immune system.
- Aspirin. Young people and children should not take aspirin because of the risk of Reye's syndrome.
- Decongestants can help make breathing easier by shrinking swollen mucous membranes in the nose.
- Saline nasal sprays can also open breathing passages.
- Cough preparations are not hugely effective. For minor coughs, water and fruit juices probably help the most.
- Gargling with salt water can help relieve a sore throat.
- As for vitamin C's effects, a recent survey of 65 years' worth of studies found limited benefit. The researchers found no evidence that vitamin C prevents colds. However, they did find evidence that vitamin C may shorten how long you suffer from a cold. One large study found that people who took a vitamin C megadose – 8 grams on the first day of a cold – shortened the duration of their colds.

The good news was I had chewable Vitamin C. The bad news was it tasted awful. I didn't figure Tamiflu would work on a cold, it was probably a different virus. There are

over 250 viruses that cause the common cold. Tamiflu probably help number 260. It wasn't the flu, it didn't involve my stomach or digestive system.

Shortages in the US and other countries led to pressure on Roche to speed production by licensing Tamiflu to generic manufacturers. The company resisted, arguing that Tamiflu's production process is too complex for other companies to complete quickly. But Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY), who this week threatened to push legislation forcing Roche to relent, today announced that the company had agreed to meet and negotiate with generic drug makers. That was from 2005. What about the patent? Oops, I forgot, Chuckie and Hillary and all those folks are above the law. Fineswine was behind the .50 caliber ban in California. Ronnie got even; he won't repair the LAPD's rifle.

"You should go to the doctor with that cold."

"Why?"

"It could be something else."

"He might get upset if I showed up in a wheelchair that was better armed than a Hummer."

"Take you old wheelchair."

"I don't really need a wheelchair unless I'm armed or have to travel over a block. Besides, it needs to be charged. I took 16 Vitamin C, I'll be ok."

"You don't sound like it."

"Am I wheezing again? I'll run the nebulizer. I guess I can't sit on the deck and watch the veggies grow. By the way, I forgot to thank you for the canopy. When are we going shooting so I can check out my new rifles?"

"Tomorrow?"

"Yeah right. You got to go to war and have all the fun. What about me, sitting in California checking the fatality details every day?"

"I told you not to worry."

"Next time we have a war, I'll go and you can stay home. Just try to not worry. That's my job as your father. I prayed a lot too."

"What did that change?"

"I don't know that it changed a thing. That's not the point. You just wait and see when the BGs show up and I'm out there preserving the American Way, you'll worry too."

◦

Once upon a time I was in a McDonald's and the guy in line in front of me was a Hindu. I was young and brash so I sez to the guy, "I thought Hindus didn't eat beef because the cow is sacred."

"Only Indian cows are sacred," he replied.

"Yes mortadella is made from pork, but I won't tell Mr. Hussein if you don't."

Mortadella is a finely hashed/ground heat-cured pork sausage which incorporates lardons of pork fat (principally the hard fat from the neck of the pig). It is delicately flavored with spices (including any of pepper, in corns or ground, myrtle berries, nutmeg and coriander) and typically pieces of pistachio nuts. Traditionally the pork filling was ground to a paste using a large mortar (mortaio) and pestle. Two Roman funerary stele in the archaeological museum of Bologna show such mortars. Alternatively, according to Cortelazzo and Zolli *Dizionario Etimologico della Lingua Italiana* 1979-88, Mortadella gets its name from a Roman sausage flavored with myrtle in place of pepper. The Romans called the sausage *farcimen mirtatum*. Anna del Conte (*The Gastronomy of Italy* 2001) found a sausage mentioned in a document of the official body of meat preservers in Bologna dated 1376, that may be mortadella.

Mortadella originated in Bologna la Grassa, the "fat" city of Emilia-Romagna overflowing with bounty; elsewhere in Italy it may be made either in the Bolognese manner or in a distinctively local style. The mortadella of Prato is a Tuscan specialty flavored with pounded garlic. The mortadella of Armatrice, high in the Apennines of northern Latium, is unusual in being lightly smoked. A similar commercial product, called "bologna" and often omitting the lardons, is popular in the US. The American version can alternatively be made out of chicken, turkey, beef, pork, or soybeans. "My bologna has a first name, it's O-S-C-A-R..." (often pronounced and/or spelled baloney)

◦

You knew about the revolution in Mexico, right? Lopez Obrador had already said he wouldn't recognize the electoral court's decision, and he planned to create a parallel government and rule from the streets. Many had feared the deepening political turmoil over the election to replace Fox could explode into violence, but Lopez Obrador called on his supporters to remain peacefully gathered in Mexico City's Zocalo plaza – instead of marching on Congress as they had previously planned.

"We aren't going to fall into any trap. We aren't going to be provoked," he told tens of thousands who waited in a driving rain to hear him speak. Protesters said they were ready to do whatever it takes to support Lopez Obrador. Fernando Calles, a 26-year-old university professor, said he was ready to fight for the former Mexico City mayor "until the death, until the final consequences."

“We lived 500 years of repression, and now we represent the new face of Mexico,” he said.

Anyway, you get the idea. We hadn't heard anything since the big one; I wonder how that all came out. That's just what we needed, a Marxist government on our southern border. Last I knew, there was fighting in the streets. Come to think of it, I wonder how Ron and the other folks in Palmdale made out. There was only 2 ways to find out, carrier pigeon or go there. I left there; there was no way I was going back.

o

“Can I go to the store?”

“What store?”

“Hancock Fabrics.”

“I didn't know we had one in Gassville.”

“We don't.”

“Then where are you going?”

“Lancaster.”

“Get outta here.”

“Ok.”

“Wait, I didn't mean it like that. I meant it like, you know, it was a ridiculous suggestion.”

“I wonder if there is one near hear?”

“Rogers, Arkansas.”

“Where is Rogers?”

“The same place it's always been.”

“I know, but where is that?”

“Get yourself on Highway 412 and go west, 120 miles, give or take.”

“Will you come with me?”

“Sure, we’ll go tomorrow, right after I get Derek to help me with my new rifle. I think maybe 30 rounds will be enough.”

“What on earth are you talking about?”

“Oh, sighting it in. We’ll need to take my new, heavy duty wheelchair.”

“What caliber is that barrel?”

“You’re going where?”

“Rogers.”

“But that’s over 100 miles.”

“120, actually.?”

“How much ammo do you want?”

“11 magazines, 50-50. Cocked and locked, you know, condition 1.”

“I screwed up.”

“How?”

“How were you planning on getting the ‘tactical wheelchair’ there?”

“I was going to put it in the back and wear a motorcycle helmet with a visor. Say, maybe we’d better add the seatbelt off the other chair to this one.”

“And tie down straps.”

“Yeah, that too, good thinking.”

“Say, why are you going to Rogers?”

“Sharon wants to go to Hancock Fabrics.”

“They’ll probably be closed.”

“Probably, but whatever she needs will be cheaper.”

“I thought you only salvaged for necessities.”

“If she needs it, it’s necessary for my piece of mind.”

“How much fabric does she need?”

“How much will your pickup hold?”

◦

“Can I write a check?”

“Sure, but the store will probably be closed.”

“Then why are we going?”

“Oh, they’re having a sale, 100% off.”

“Did Derek get you set up with your gun?”

“Yes, he’s driving his pickup and coming along.”

“Maybe Mary would like to come too.”

“She is; Damon and she are driving the Hummer.”

“Who is going to watch her kids?”

“We’ll drop them off at her mom’s. Say, maybe she’d like to come and we can stick John with babysitting.”

“Why don’t we get Amy and Lorrie to baby sit? I’ll get on the radio and call over there and see if she wants to go too.”

“She who?”

“Mary’s mother, Helen.”

Rogers is a city in Benton County, Arkansas. As of the 2000 census, the city is the ninth most populous in the state, with a total population of 38,829. As of April 2006, the city is preparing to undertake a special census that is expected to show a large population increase, in line with other cities in the area. Rogers is famous as the location of the first Wal-Mart. It is also where comedian Will Rogers married Betty Blake.

Frequent Wal-Mart customers show some demographic trends. Polling Data reported by John Zogby suggests there is a correlation between how often consumers shop at Wal-Mart and how conservative they are. In the 2004 US Presidential election 76% of voters who shopped at Wal-Mart once a week voted for George W. Bush while only 23% voted for John Kerry. By contrast 80% of voters who never shopped there voted for Kerry with 18% voting for Bush. African American and Hispanic voters who shop there are de-

scribed as “significantly more conservative” than their non-Wal-Mart shopping peers. When measured against other similar retailers in the United States, Wal-Mart frequent shoppers were rated the most politically conservative. I guess that’s why I read so much talk about Wally-World at the tree.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., branded as Walmart since 2008 and Wal-Mart before then, is an American public multinational corporation that runs chains of large discount department stores and warehouse stores. The company is the world’s 18th largest public corporation, according to the Forbes Global 2000 list, and the largest public corporation when ranked by revenue. It is also the biggest private employer in the world with over 2 million employees, and is the largest company in the world.

The State of Maryland passed a controversial bill in January of 2006 requiring that all corporations with more than 10,000 employees in the state spend at least 8% of their payroll on employee benefits, or pay into a state fund for the uninsured. Wal-Mart, with about 17,000 employees in Maryland, was the only known company to not meet this requirement before the bill passed. On Wednesday 2006-07-07, the Maryland law was overturned in federal court by US District Judge Frederick Motz who ruled that the law would “hurt Wal-Mart by imposing the administrative burden of tracking benefits in Maryland differently than in other states.”

“I didn’t know that Rogers was so large.”

“Right around 40 thousand.”

“Maybe we’d better not go Gary.”

“When I checked on the Hancock Fabric locations in Arkansas, Rogers was the closest one.”

“When did you do that?”

“Right after we moved into the house and got the internet back up. There’s a store in Springfield, Missouri however it’s about the same distance.”

“Are those the only 2?”

“No, there are about a half dozen. I have no intentions of going anywhere near Little Rock. I think they nuked Little Rock and maybe Pine Bluff.”

“That’s right, they nuked Little Rock, Dad, but they didn’t nuke Pine Bluff.”

“How do you know?”

“Pine Bluff was a chemical weapons plant and storage area. A biological weapons mission was added in 1953 and continued until 1969. Pine Bluff was the site of the Produc-

tion Development Laboratories, responsible for manufacturing and loading biological munitions. President Nixon banned biological weapons in 1969 and manufacturing ceased. The bioweapons production facility at Pine Bluff was abandoned and partly dismantled in 1969. In 1972, this part of the complex was renamed the National Center for Toxicological Research, removed from the jurisdiction of the Arsenal and placed under the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

“Currently, it manufactures chemical, smoke, riot control, incendiary and pyrotechnic mixes and munitions. Limited production facilities also are used to manufacture chemical defense items such as clothing and protective masks. Pine Bluff is the only active site at which white phosphorous-filled weapons are loaded. I didn’t get the stuff there; I got it at Ft. Chaffee.”

“Never heard of it.”

“South of Ft. Smith and it’s used as a training range.”

“Is that where you need to go to get more ammo?”

“Maybe.”

“You know what; the country has been nuked, not once but twice. As far as I can tell, there isn’t an operational government anymore, contrail notwithstanding. I think we should consider getting all the weapons and ammo we can find. That Hummer doesn’t make for much of an Army. If I were still in California, I have been to MCLB Barstow long before this. I don’t know how, but Ron and I would have broken in and cleaned up. After we leave Rogers, let’s go to Ft. Chaffee.”

“But Dad, if I get caught it would end my Army career.”

“If you don’t you could just as easily end up dead. I wouldn’t mind more machine guns and ammo, like a couple of M1114s equipped with an Mk-19 and another Ma Deuce.”

“There aren’t any more CROWS Systems.”

“Is there any more of the bulletproof glass?”

“In Mountain Home.”

“Fine, we’ll get a couple of Hummers equipped as I suggest and all the ammo and JP-8 we can haul. Get on the radio and let Damon know.”

Picture this if you can: 3 men and 1 woman in Army uniform. One SFC, 2 Corporals and 1 PFC plus two women in their 60s. One of the Corporals is older than Patton when he died (age 60) and he’s riding in the back of a pickup in a wheelchair wearing a motorcy-

cle helmet and visor. I can see the cartoon they'd put in a newspaper, with the caption, "Your tax dollars at work."

Rogers was not heavily populated and when they saw the CROWS equipped Hummer, no one bothered. I expected people to have a million questions, beginning with, "Where is FEMA?" Followed by, "Where is the National Guard." It didn't happen; maybe the CROWS put them off. The ladies spend about 30 minutes in Hancock Fabrics and we hit the road. "Make a note Zelda, that was the shortest trip in shopping history."

It was about 85 miles to Ft. Chaffee. The closest I can come to describing what we found would be to remind you of Navajo Depot. We commandeered 4 Hummers, M1114s, 1 MK-19, 1 Ma Deuce and 2 M240s and 4 trailers of JP-8. We packed all the ammo we could into the Hummers and the back of the one we already had. Yes, I drove one, but it had an automatic transmission and we kept it under 55. That was the first vehicle I'd driven since 2003. My driving skills left a little to be desired; what can I say, I didn't wreck it.

"How much of the AP did you find?"

"Not much, maybe 500 rounds, it was mostly TP. I'm going to try something. I'm sorry Dad, I just don't know."

Derek even had to show me how to start the Hummer; it wasn't exactly a Buick Park Avenue Ultra. And while I'm on that subject, buying the Park Avenue was the dumbest mistake I'd made in a lifetime of mistakes and also the nicest car I ever owned. We got back to Gassville in an uneventful, if meandering, drive. When we dropped Helen off, we let John and her keep the M240 equipped Hummer for Flippin's defense. The Mk-19 and the Ma Deuce stayed in Gassville parked downtown and the other Hummer went to Mountain Home.

Survival Story – Chapter 19

The LT didn't commandeer the CROWS equipped Hummer but he did make Derek his official driver, same difference I guess. The LT seemed to think that before the year was over some kind of military action would take place in an effort to rebuild the country. He'd been working on the problem and had a squad in each of the 3 communities assisting local law enforcement. Those other M1114s in Mountain Home? They were now cop cars.

We were working off a new set of rules perhaps more in line with what the framers wanted. We didn't have CCWs any more, that was replaced by a must carry rule. The people with the stills had to pony up at least half of their ethanol to be blended with gasoline. It was blended with benzene and further refined into anhydrous ethanol then blended with the remaining stores of gas. Vehicles not designed to run E-85 were sidelined and flexible fuel vehicles ruled. The few people fortunate to have the flex fuel vehicles ended up ferrying people around.

I wasn't going to share what little gas I had outside of the family. However, I wanted to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem so I strategically relocated a very nice Dodge 3500 RAM with the Cummins Turbo diesel. Damon and Derek helped and we constructed a loading dock so I could load my tactical wheelchair in the back. Sorry, no tactical wheelbarrow.

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You may recall that I talked myself into a diesel generator. That was nice, but we were now short on diesel fuel. JP-8 is very similar to Jet Fuel A.

JP-8 jet fuel was developed as a jet fuel in response to problems encountered in use of JP-4 jet fuel. By the fall of 1996, JP-8 completely replaced JP-4 in the United States Air Force. Compared to JP-4, JP-8 has a higher flash point and lower vapor pressure, making it less volatile; contains less benzene, a known carcinogen; and contains less n-hexane, a known neurotoxicant. Moreover, as a kerosene-based fuel, JP-8 has a strong odor and is oily to the touch, while JP-4, a kerosene-gasoline mix, is less pungent and has a non-oily, solvent-like feel.

It has been estimated that approximately 60 billion gallons are used worldwide each year, with 4.5 billion used by the US Air Force, the US Army, and NATO. The US Navy uses JP-5, which is very similar to JP-8. JP-8 is also used to fuel heaters, stoves, tanks, and other vehicles in military service; and used as coolant for engines and other aircraft components. JP-8 is planned on being used at least until the year 2025 as the battle-field fuel for all US military operations. The Department of Defense has recognized JP-8 as the single largest chemical exposure for its personnel. JP-8 without several additives is Jet A or commercial fuel.

The Airports at Flippin (FLP) and Mountain Home (BPK) had 100LL and Jet Fuel A. All we needed was transport so I asked Damon to see what he could arrange. He told me to load the wheelchair, we were going shopping. He loaded 20 gallons of JP-8 and battery cables, I was guessing we were looking for a fuel transport. He directed me to drive west on 412 and junction with US 65. We hadn't gone more than 20 miles down 65 when we saw a Citgo tanker. We stopped and he checked the tanks. One had gas and was about $\frac{1}{3}$ full; the other had diesel and was about $\frac{1}{2}$ full. Nice. The gas wouldn't be any good unless we could come up with about $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of PRI-G. It would take 2 gallons of PRI-D to restore the diesel fuel, but there were plenty of marinas at Bull Shoals. The ratio is one gallon of stabilizer to 2,000 gallons of fuel. We found plenty.

Once he got the tractor running, we headed home. I was thinking about Chris and his race car. He ran it on 100LL. IIRC, his engine was a Dodge 416. I figured we'd add the fuel supplement and haul the tanker to one of the airports and finish filling the tanks with either 100LL or Jet fuel A. The process of filling the tanks ought to work to our advantage, mixing the PRI products. That would solve our gasoline and diesel fuel problem, probably for a while. We got home and unloaded my wheelchair. Damon said he'd find the PRI-G and PRI-D and get some help to refill the fuel tanks.

I didn't have any problem taking the Citgo tanker; you know who owns Citgo, don't you? I'll tell you since you want to know, the Venezuelan state-owned petroleum company (Hugo Chávez). I felt better knowing we'd stuck it to Hugo, if only a little bit. I'll tell you, I was looking forward to celebrating Independence Day. And, thanks for asking, my cold is much better, I did the megadose of Vitamin C, 16 pills. Vitamin C is water soluble so I don't believe you can overdose on it. Now I'm taking all B plus C, but it hasn't improved my hearing.

o

Slowly, the story of what happened to the country was coming together, via the Ham radio net. The US has 361 metropolitan statistical areas. While none of the Hams was sure who attacked the country, the money was on China and/or Russia. While certain key military targets were hit, the list of MSAs almost constituted a target list and MSAs of 500,000 and over were hit, some with multiple weapons. 24 of those had already been hit in the terrorist attacks and if the war had come one week later, Derek might have been in one of those cities. That's a sobering thought, if I were drinking.

The total? Somewhere around 340 cities and ~120 military installations, but I was still counting. With no better information, I was holding to the 70% population loss figure. Palmdale got a double whammy, LA and Edwards ABF had both been hit. Plant 42 escaped the attack. One Ham mentioned an attack north of Nellis AFB at the test range, Area 51?

Any local bad actors were quickly rounded up, or shot. Like I said, there were a lot of retired folks in the area, plus the National Guard survivors weren't taking any chances. Wearing BDUs helped to identify us as the good guys, whatever that means. I guess it

means we didn't steal TVs and shared some of our booty with the others, except for fuel. There is an exception to every rule and when Art showed up with more propane, we quickly filled his tank and 2 55-gallon drums he brought along with the diesel/JP-8/Jet fuel A combination.

"Derek, in most of the stories I wrote, I had my Dodge Ram all tricked out. You know, a 12k Warn Winch, extra fuel tanks and sometimes a topper. The truck has a towing package so if we could find the other things, I'd be set."

"Didn't grandpa have a winch that raised and lowered Gayle's wheelchair into the back of his Lincoln Town Car?"

"Yep, but I don't know where he got it. Isn't that combat wheelchair a little heavy to lift?"

"I don't know, maybe a ramp?"

"Have we weighed the wheelchair?"

"Loaded or unloaded?"

"No, but I do know it weighed 125 pounds before I loaded it down. It might go under 200. I think a ramp is the best way to go. We can do an 8' ramp and if you can find a second winch, we can install it in the truck bed."

I love those boys of mine. Notwithstanding that, they found an under-bed auxiliary tank, 3 winches, running lights, but no topper. They got Joe to install an extra generator and extra battery so I had lots of power to run the junk. I've known people to drive for years without driver's licenses; I used to live in California. He even installed an inverter so I'd have 110v in the back. I soon found that I wasn't as aggressive as I used to be once I was behind the wheel. I didn't realize it until someone mentioned it, but I was getting around better and not using the wheelchair as much. Maybe in a pinch, I could run 100'.

o

"Did you catch the broadcast?"

"What broadcast?"

"Bush."

"Is he still alive?"

"Sure sounded like him."

"What's he going to do, cut taxes and nuke Africa?"

“He said he was broadcasting from Cheyenne Mountain. He went on to say that enough radio stations were back on the air so his message should reach most of the country. He has issued several EOs and rescinded others. With most of the Governor’s killed in the attack, he’s federalizing the National Guard with each unit to work within its home state, suspending Posse Comitatus and the Writ of Habeas Corpus. He went on to say that he’s suspending ALL federal gun control laws but that persons who use guns in crimes will be shot on site.”

“Most of the supplies that FEMA and the government squirreled away were in or near large cities and lost in the attack. He’s authorized all citizens, his exact words, to recover such things as may be necessary to maintain life, such as food and drugs. He went on to say that the military, not FEMA, will be in charge of the recovery effort.”

“Did he admit he made a mistake in using the TLAM-Ns?”

“No, he’s a politician, they don’t make mistakes. He did say that satellite reconnaissance shows that both the northern and southern hemispheres were involved in the aftermath of the attacks.”

“That supports the theory espoused by the World Climate Research Program back in the mid ‘80s. I suppose that means you’re going to have to leave.”

“Yep. The LT said we’d take the M1114s and head out tomorrow. Those of you staying behind will have to make do with what you have. Just so you know, the Tac-50 was Navy property called an Mk-15. You need to find someone to mount a rail on your Loaded to hold your second MUNS and an A.R.M.S. mount for a scope. Here’s a Nightforce 8-32x56mm for your Loaded. I’m leaving all of my personal weapons behind, except for the knife and I consider the .50 cal to be a personal weapon. If I can, I’ll try to contact you periodically on channel 1500. Let’s set the time at 2100 hours.”

“Do you know where you are headed?”

“Little Rock, clean up detail.”

“Burying the dead?”

“At first, yes; plus help any survivors we find. You never know, there may be a few.”

“Ok, I’ll monitor channel 1500 at 2100 every night. You keep your powder dry and watch your six. Are you going to lose the field promotion to SFC?”

“I really don’t know, Dad. Relax, this can’t be as bad as Iraq.”

o

IMHO, the other guys started the whole thing. They bombed the WTC in '93 and brought the towers down in '01. I don't know if this meets the definition of a just war or not, it doesn't seem as important. My view says that Saddam started it when he invaded Kuwait. We intervened which made Osama bin Laden angry. That blind Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman and Ramzi Yousef were responsible for the '93 attack. In '98, bin Laden was behind the US Embassy bombings and they attacked the USS Cole in 2000. And then came 9/11 which resulted in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Despite Bin Laden repeatedly referring to the Palestinian cause in his manifestos and interviews, some in the region villainize the organization for allegedly ignoring the Palestinian cause. There could be an endless list of reasons why al Qaeda are seemingly inactive in the Palestinian territories; one theory is that al Qaeda is unwilling to co-operate with the mainly Shi'a groups such as Hezbollah who fund Palestinian terrorism or resistance (depending on the viewpoint) against Israel. Another theory suggests that Palestinians don't wish to be stained further by the extremist ideology driving al Qaeda followers, and prefer to conduct combat according to their own principles.

Al Qaeda is suspected, however, to have planned and carried out two nearly simultaneous terror attacks against Israeli civilian targets in Mombasa, Kenya, on 28Nov02. The one successful attack, a car-bomb placed in a resort hotel popular among Israeli tourists, claimed the lives of 15 people. The hotel bombing occurred 20 minutes after a failed attack on an airplane, when a terrorist fired an SA-7 MANPAD against an Israeli airliner carrying 261 passengers, which was taking off from the airport. The rocket narrowly missed its target and landed in an empty field.

Then they had the 34 day war with Hezbollah and our withdrawal from all foreign conflicts after Israel attacked Syria. I didn't know if our troops made it home or not. I didn't think to ask Derek before he left this morning, either. I was more concerned about losing our M1114s and the weapons that went with them. A Dodge Ram isn't bulletproof unless you send it out and have that added. You can get most any vehicle bulletproofed if you have the money. Or, you can spend the same money and buy a house, for cash.

Sharon and I had a pretty good view and I could see most of the town from our deck. Mary brought me a telescope to use but warned me about looking into bedrooms. What are they going to do, take away my driver's license? I wasn't interested anyway; I totally lost interest after the diabetes got to me. Not that I didn't still check out the 'legs', maybe DOM is more correct than TOM. Here is where I tell you that love and hate are the same emotion and that indifference is the opposite.

I maybe forgot to tell you about the Vietnam veteran whose oldest son did a tour in Iraq and his younger son is there now in a Stryker Brigade. To top it off, his middle child, Kathleen, is in the military and somewhere in the Middle East. After I read the article he wrote about his son, Casey, I wrote him and told him I'd add his son to my prayers. It doesn't matter what I said to him, but I liked his reply:

My prayers are with you and with your son. In addition to active duty, I spent 12 years in the Texas Army National Guard, 1978-90, eight-plus of those as a fulltime Training NCO. The Army put me out on a disability in 1990, or I would be in Iraq now, by my own choice, since I am 60.

Most people have no idea how it is, being a soldier. I guess it's always been that way. Even during World War II, when 12 million men were in uniform still that meant that the great majority of Americans remained civilians.

There are times when I wonder if war is worth the sacrifice, not just of lives, but the time and mental and physical energy required from soldiers. Some days I feel as though someone hit me in the stomach, hard. I felt that way in 2003, when my oldest son was in Iraq, and I certainly feel that way now, with my youngest in Iraq. But I would never tell them that. Our children's service takes a toll on us, but that is such a small amount, compared to what they go through. Thank you for your letter, and especially for your Prayers.

o

I sometimes wonder too. War seems as old as human society, and certainly features prominently in the recorded histories of state-cultures. In tribal societies engaging in endemic warfare, it is typical for the tribe's armed force to consist entirely or mostly of militia or a warrior caste. The earliest city states and empires in Mesopotamia became the first to employ standing armies. Organization and structure has since been central to warfare, as illustrated by the success of highly disciplined troops of the Roman Empire.

As well as organizational change, technology has played a central role in the evolution of warfare. Armies with iron weapons might easily defeat armies armed with copper. Inventions created for warfare play an important role in advances in other fields, but modern technology has greatly increased the potential cost and destruction of war.

Throughout history, war has been the source of serious moral questions. Although many ancient nations and some more modern ones viewed war as noble, over the sweep of history concerns about the morality of war have gradually increased. Today, war is generally seen as undesirable and, by some, morally problematic. At the same time, many view war, or at least the preparation and readiness and willingness to engage in war, as necessary for the defense of their country. Pacifists believe that war is inherently immoral and that no war should ever be fought. This position was passionately propounded by the Indian leader Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi.

The negative view of war has not always been held as widely as it is today. Many thinkers, such as Heinrich von Treitschke saw war as humanity's highest activity where courage, honor, and ability were more necessary than in any other endeavor. At the outbreak of WW I the writer Thomas Mann wrote, *Is not peace an element of civil corruption and war a purification, a liberation, an enormous hope?* This attitude has been embraced by societies from Sparta and Rome in the ancient world to the fascist states

of the 1930s. The defeat and repudiation of the fascist states and their militarism in the WW II, the shock of the first use of nuclear weapons and increasing belief in the value of individual life have contributed to the current view of war.

Today, some see only just wars as legitimate, and believe that it is the responsibility of world organizations such as the UN to oppose wars of unjust aggression. Others believe that world organizations have no more standing to judge the morality of a war than that of a sovereign country.

“Just War theory” refers to modern political doctrines which promote the view that war is “just” (i.e. justice), given satisfactory conditions. As “conditions” tend to be variable, open to interpretation, and otherwise subject to political obfuscation, the concept of Just War itself, even apart from any specific formulated doctrines, is controversial. While proponents claim such views have a long “tradition,” critics claim the application of “Just war” is only relativistic, and directly contradicts more universal philosophical traditions such as the Ethic of reciprocity (The Golden Rule). War is war is war. It’s “just” if you win and not if you lose. And, that’s a fact, Jack!

The idea that history is written by the victors has been wrongly credited to Winston Churchill, but he did say, *If you are going through hell, keep going*. But you wonder whether years from now – 5? 10? 50? – there will come a day when the victors actually know that they’ve won, that the battle is over and they can set about the writing. And whether even then, we will be sure that we have got the story right. (Time) *Who controls the past*, ran the Party slogan, *controls the future: who controls the present controls the past*. George Orwell, 1984.

How would you like to be the only person in a class in 1969 who was supporting the War in Vietnam? The whiners were complaining about everything from the fire-bombing of Dresden to the A-Bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We didn’t bomb London and we didn’t bomb Coventry into a pile of ash. We didn’t attack Pearl Harbor. We did unto others as they did unto us. The nuclear weapons saved lives by taking far fewer than if they had not been used, IMHO. Half of the class was draft dodgers. I’d lost anybody I cared about in Vietnam by 1969. The class was called, *The Great Issues – War and Peace*.

A war is nothing more than a country sized disagreement. Sometimes the countries gang up and we have so called World Wars. That all changed in Chicago with Enrico Fermi. When man first achieved the first self-sustained nuclear chain reaction, a coded phone call was made to one of the leaders of the Manhattan Project, James Conant: *The Italian navigator has landed in the new world... The natives were very friendly*. On 28Nov54, Fermi died at the age of 53 of stomach cancer in Chicago. As Eugene Wigner wrote: “Ten days before Fermi had died he told me, *I hope it won’t take long*. He had reconciled himself perfectly to his fate”. Although opposed to the H-Bomb, Fermi helped design it.

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The natives in Gassville were very friendly too. In fact some of those ladies had very nice 'legs'. I didn't look into any bedroom windows and thus avoided being called a 'peeping' TOM. Every night I sat by the SINCGARS radio at 9pm listening to channel 1500. Every night I went to bed disappointed, for a while at least.

"Dad, are you there?"

"Number 2 son?"

"Roger. This is the first break I've had. Man it's just awful down here. We started on the Westside along 430 and worked our way in. Ground Zero must have been the I-30 bridge over the Arkansas. A second weapon hit Little Rock ABF, the C-130 base. I'm tired."

"I'm not as worried as I was when you were over there, but I'm concerned. Is the radiation level low enough?"

"Yes, it's been over 9 months. Plus I have that bottle of KIO_3 you gave me. We're running about 80mR and we get rotated out when we hit 200R. I'm due to rotate soon, but not due to the radiation."

"Coming home?"

"Negative. Our unit is being moved to where you thought the other bomb might have hit. Don't mention any names, please."

"Gottcha (Pine Bluff). It's been quiet on the home front. Mary brought me a telescope and I've been keeping an eye on things. Bunch of people making alky-hall and some of the folks been enlisted as temporary police. I can see east and west on 412 so I communicate with the cops."

"Roger. I got to go, Dad. Mary, are you there?"

"I'm here."

I didn't want to eavesdrop on their conversation so I turned the radio off. Most of the time I called the cops it was just local folks that I didn't recognize. Over time, I learned a few new faces and who had vehicles and I had to call in a lot less. They had roadblocks set up anyway so all I was doing was giving them a bit of a heads up. At least I was good for something. We had started early collecting jars, rings and lids and Sharon told me that she thought we had enough. She said she also found Gayle's recipe for the bread and butter pickles. If I had been thinking about 10 years back, I've gotten my Aunt Ruth's dill pickle recipe, the best ever. They were getting wood boxes filled with sand to store the carrots in the basement. She said she'd do a few jars of beets and some

creamed corn which she was partial to. Lots of green beans of course, that's what I'm partial to.

Missy laid down the other day and didn't get up. I balled my eyes out, she was 11. I wrapped her in a blanket and put her in a nice wooden box. I dug the hole without help and set the box in it. Then I filled the hole back up and put up a white wooden cross just in case dogs have a religion. I wrote her name on the cross and underneath, 'My Friend – 1997-2008'. And then, I just sat down on the ground and cried some more, that wound cut pretty deep. I got her during my away time and she stuck with me through thick and thin.

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Damon would come by from time to time to visit. When he saw how upset I was about Missy, he sent Aaron to come and sit with me. Aaron was 15 and quite the young man. I don't think he understood about how I felt about Missy, but he tried. I put him on the telescope because his eyes were so much better than mine.

As many may recall, in the previous story, I listed terrorist events running from 1961 to the present. Altogether, it ran over 40 pages. Some might say that what I reported was propaganda. It was the truth, whether or not it was propaganda remains to be determined. You've heard me say that there are 2 sides to every coin. Was *The Ugly American* just a character in a novel or does he/she really exist? *The Ugly American* refers not to Marlon Brando, but to the character played by Pat Hingle, Homer Atkins who lives with the local people, comes to understand their needs, and gives genuinely-useful assistance with small-scale projects such the development of a simple bicycle-powered water pump. It is argued in the book that the Communists are successful because they practice tactics similar to Atkins'.

Why do I tell you this? It's really simple; I found 'the other side's website. Man, it's a Lulu. All of the bad guys are Americans, Israelis or people one of us trained. As a freshman in college, I took a class named *Propaganda Analysis* taught by the English Department at ISU. One time I especially remember from the class was the look we took at 3 publications, Newsweek, Time and US News and World Report. Two are left of center and one is right of center, none are without an evident bias. Newsweek is generally considered the most liberal of the three major newsweeklies.

The point is, I retained a bit of what I learned in that class I took in 1965. Hence, when I happened upon this website it only took a couple of sentences to have this guy's number, a big fat zero. Why do 'they' hate us so? Are we all Ugly Americans to 'them'? If that's the case, why do so many of 'them' live here?

This is a warning that Chapter 20 is not for the faint of heart. It is absolutely anti-Israeli anti United States. In order for the author to get about 30 pages of negative things to say about things the US has done, he had to go back to 1864 to the Sand Creek Mas-

sacre. I'm surprised he didn't accuse us of murder in the Revolutionary War because he sure did when it came to the Israelis fight for independence in the late '40s.

That's one of the clues about this piece, the choice of language. It was written in British English not American English and I converted it to American English. In Chapter 20, we're the BGs. I do not dispute the events cited occurred. I do dispute the interpretation given many of the events, but not all of them. My Lai was not our finest moment. Neither was Sand Creek, Wounded Knee or the Trail of Tears. Only God is perfect, we aren't. We have made mistakes over the last 230 years. I won't dismiss our mistakes by saying chit happens.

If an innocent person is killed, it's sad and terrible whether it was a Native American or a pioneering family. It's equally sad and terrible if a military unit wrongly identifies a target and 'innocents' are killed. Hezbollah counted on that when they chose to launch missiles into Israel from civilian neighborhoods. I assume that some of the people were innocent civilians, but not all were. This leads me to a discussion I can't answer, "Were German and Japanese civilians during WW II innocent bystanders?" May I suggest to you that if Hitler had perfected the ICBM that could have reached the US and nuclear weapons, the story would be vastly different. I can't accept that he wouldn't have used them indiscriminately against the eastern coast of the US.

In the late days of WW II in the Pacific, the Japanese hatched a plot to destroy the Panama Canal. Earlier, they invaded Dutch Harbor as a diversion for their attack on Midway Island. I believe that both Pearl Harbor and Dutch Harbor were US Territories then and are now parts of the 49th and 50th states now. They chose to become states, remember that when the author mentions our invasion of the Hawaiian Islands.

In the 21st Century, the greatest danger doesn't lie with the major nuclear powers, directly. It lies with the wanttabe nuclear nations, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Iran and as some suggest, Saudi Arabia. The US and Russia fought the Cold War for 40 years. We came very close more than once, but we managed to avoid WW III, the nuclear confrontation. Sometimes we avoided WW III because of something we did and sometimes it was a Russian. Consider the policies of two of our Generals, MacArthur and LeMay. "You are about to enter the Spin Zone."

*The sun'll come out
Tomorrow
So ya gotta hang on
'Til tomorrow
Come what may
Tomorrow! Tomorrow!
I love ya Tomorrow!
You're always
A day
A way!*

Survival Story – Chapter 20

January 2

In 1904 US troops invaded the Dominican Republic and stayed until February 11 to enforce US interests at Puerto Plata, Sosua, and Santo Domingo. American customs agents took over the state's finances to assure payment of its external debt.

January 4

In 1948 Jewish terrorists from the Haganah bombed the Arab Semiramis hotel in Jerusalem on the night of January 4/5. A total of twenty-six people were killed, including a Spanish diplomat and numerous women and children. The British report called the bombing 'wholesale murder of innocent people'.

January 8

In 1948 Jewish terrorists placed a booby-trapped car and blew up the headquarters of the Arab National Committee in Jaffa. The explosion killed 70 Arabs and wounded many more.

January 16

In 1893 US Marines landed in Honolulu armed with Howitzer cannons and carbines. A group of 18 men – mostly American sugar farmers – staged a coup, proclaiming themselves the "provisional government" of Hawaii. The US minister to Hawaii, John L. Stevens, gave immediate recognition to them as Hawaii's true government.

In 1948 Jewish terrorists disguised in the uniforms of British soldiers entered a store near the "Maghrebi Building" located in Salahuddin Street in the city of Haifa under the pretext of inspection. They placed a time bomb which exploded, destroying the building and its vicinity, killing 31 men, women and children and injuring double that number.

January 17

In 1961 Patrice Lumumba, the first prime minister of the newly independent Congo was assassinated by the CIA under direct orders from US President Eisenhower, who had financial interests in the former Belgian colony. There followed several years of civil conflict and chaos and the rise to power of Mobutu Sese Seko, a man not a stranger to the CIA. Mobutu went on to rule the country for more than 30 years, with a level of corruption and cruelty that shocked even his CIA handlers. The Zairian people lived in abject poverty despite the plentiful natural wealth, while Mobutu became a multibillionaire.

January 18

In 2004 a US Apache helicopter attacked "armed militants" in Saghatho village in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan. According to local people 11 villagers, including four children, were killed.

January 23

In 1870 at first light, in numbing cold, 200 dismounted US cavalymen lay spread out in ambush positions along snowy bluffs overlooking the Marias River in Montana and the

large winter campsite of the Piegan leader Heavy Runner. The camp was surrounded, its warriors were away hunting, and the edgy troopers awaited the command to fire. Then the old chief came out of his lodge and walked toward the bluffs, waving a safe-conduct paper. An Army scout, Joe Kipp, shouted that this was the wrong camp; he was threatened into silence. Another scout, Joe Cobell, fired the first shot, dropping Heavy Runner in his tracks. What followed, according to Lt. Gus Doane who commanded F Company in the attack, was “the greatest slaughter of Indians ever made by US troops.”

Some 200 Piegans, most of them either elderly or women and children, were killed by the relentless firing of the Army’s Springfield rifles. The .45-70 shells, half an inch thick, riddled the lodges, collapsing some on to smoking fire pits and suffocating the half-awake, terrified victims. Some of the big bullets killed children under the protecting bodies of mothers and grandmothers. Those who ran to the sheltering cut banks of the river were rounded up later; a total of 140 captives was turned loose without adequate food and clothing – some of them froze to death trying to walk to Fort Benton, ninety miles away.

January 25

In 1999 a cruise missile struck Basra’s Al-Jumhuriya residential area, while US/British warplanes attacked Abu Flos, Abu Kaseeb, Basra airport and Al-Rumeila oil field. 17 people died, 100 persons were injured and 45 houses were damaged. A UN team visited on January 27.

January 26

In 1911 US troops landed in Honduras in support of former president Manuel Bonilla against the legitimate regime of Miguel Dávila, whose liberalism was opposed by Washington. Bonilla’s revolt was financed by American banana tycoon Sam Zemurray and led by the American mercenary, Lee Christmas, who became Commander-in-Chief of the Honduran Army.

January 28

In 1948 Israeli terrorists of Hadar neighborhood overlooking the Arab Abbas Street in the city of Haifa, hurled a barrel filled with explosives. It destroyed the houses with their inhabitants inside. Twenty Arabs were killed and about 50 were injured.

In 2004 Israeli occupation forces killed eight (some reports said 13) Palestinians in an assault on a neighborhood in the Gaza Strip. Among those killed were three teenagers: Sami Badawi, 16; Akram AbuAjami, 17; and Sameh Toteh, 16. Like many other such assaults, the mainstream media in the United States ignored this event or made cursory mention of it. No mainstream newspaper mentioned names of those killed, let alone described the Israeli assault as terrorism.

February 2

In 2003 Israeli soldiers raided the medical center of the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees (UPMRC) in the Old City of Nablus. The soldiers destroyed three

hospital beds, furniture, a defibrillator, and various containers of medicine. (Source: US State Department Human Rights Report)

February 4

In 1899, the US started the Philippine-American War by initiating an encounter with Filipino revolutionary forces. It used the false allegation that Filipino troops would start killing all foreign residents in Manila on February 15, 1899. US imperialism sent more than 126,000 troops to pacify the Filipino people and caused the death of up to 1.4 million Filipinos from 1899 to 1913.

February 7

In 1951 Israeli soldiers sneak over the Jordanian border and kill 10 people, mainly women and children in the village of Sharafat in Jordan.

February 11

In 2003 Asma Abu al-Haija was arrested at her home at 3am by Israeli troops. She is a sick woman with a brain tumor, who is going blind, has undergone brain surgery twice, who has five children left alone at home in the refugee camp, without a mother, without a father, without their older brother. She spent nine months in prison, sleeping on the floor of her cell. She was not accused of anything and was released nine months later, without any explanation.

February 13

In 1991 during the Gulf Massacre (Operation Desert Storm) the Allies first escalated their bombing strategy to terrorize the Iraqi people. Two missiles launched from a US stealth bomber hit a civilian establishment – an air raid shelter – killing 1,500 civilians, many of them women and children. In response to international concern and outrage, the US claimed that the shelter was a cover for a military outpost. Yet neighborhood residents insistently pointed out the existence of constant Western aerial surveillance overhead which clearly would have observed the daily flow of women and children into the shelter, and Western reporters at the site admitted that absolutely no signs of military use could be discovered.

In 1989 Iktimal Dim (6) was killed, and her brother, 'Isam Dim (10), injured by shrapnel from an exploding device thrown from an Israeli helicopter hovering above the village of Tayasir.

February 14

In 1945 aerial slaughter in Europe reached a climax at Dresden. The briefing for air crews misrepresented Dresden as “an industrial city of first-class importance.” Dresden had always been a center of art and artists, one of Europe’s most magnificent cities, itself a work of art; Dresden’s “heavy” industry was the manufacture of porcelain shepherds and shepherdesses.

Other industries, according to Kurt Vonnegut, held as a POW near Dresden, consisted largely of hospitals and cigarette and clarinet factories. The Royal Air Force gave the

city and its civilians an all-out scourging with 1,400 bombers carrying high explosives and incendiaries. The following day, February 14, 1,350 USAAF heavy bombers attacked the marshaling yards with high explosives. USAAF tactical fighters flew over in daylight and strafed survivors who had sought refuge along the river banks. Estimates of the dead vary from 35,000 to 250,000. The raid was specifically described by Churchill as “simply for the sake of increasing terror”.

In 1948 twenty houses were blown up together with their inhabitants in Sa’sa, and some sixty Arabs were killed, most of them women and children, by the Jewish Haganah.

February 20

In 1948 the “Lehi” Stern Jewish gang stole a British army vehicle, filled it with explosives then parked it in front of al-Salaam building in Jerusalem. The explosion killed 14 Arabs and injured 26.

February 21

In 1973 an Israeli aircraft shot down a peaceful Libyan civil Boeing 727 airliner, murdering 106 innocent passengers. This brazenly criminal act was perpetrated over the then illegally occupied Egyptian territory of Sinai. The airliner was in distress, and Israel’s leaders, not caring about its civilian passengers of many different nationalities, had their fighters shoot it down. On the same day Israel landed commando units on the coasts of the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. They attacked two Palestinian refugee camps, dynamited several houses and buildings, some over the heads of their occupants, killing 35 refugees and wounding a similar number.

February 23

In 1991 the ground war part of the “Gulf War” begins. In this so-called war, between 100,000 and 200,000 Iraqis were slaughtered: American losses were 148, the majority caused by friendly fire.

February 24

In 1965 operation Rolling Thunder, a bombing campaign, began and lasted until the end of October 1968. The plan was to destroy the North Vietnamese economy and force it to stop helping guerrilla fighters in South Vietnam. In all, the US military flew 304,000 fighter-bomber sorties and 2,380 B-52 bomber sorties over North Vietnam under Operation Rolling Thunder, dropping almost 1 million tons of bombs on the country. According to US estimates, 182,000 North Vietnamese civilians were killed.

February 25

In 1969 in an isolated peasant hamlet called Thanh Phong in Vietnam’s eastern Mekong Delta, a group of US Navy Seals led by ex-senator Bob Kerrey deliberately killed at least 13 unarmed women and children.

In 1994 American-born West Bank settler Dr. Baruch Goldstein opened fire on Muslims praying at the Tomb of the Patriarchs. He killed 29 Palestinians before being beaten to

death by the worshippers. Settlers established a shrine to him that was forcibly removed by the Israeli Government only in 1999.

February 26

In 1991, after a cease fire had been declared in the Gulf Massacre (Operation Desert Storm), US pilots spent 48 hours relentlessly bombing tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers in retreat from Kuwait. Initial bombing blocked escape from either end of the 60-miles-long column of vehicles on the highway to Basra. Thousands of civilian refugees were also incinerated in the atrocity, which US military personnel referred to as a “turkey shoot” and “like shooting fish in a barrel”.

February 29

In 1948 the Jewish Stern group bombed the Cairo-Haifa train, killing 27 British soldiers.

March 3

In 2003 an Israeli bulldozer killed a nine-month pregnant Palestinian woman, Nuha Sweidan, while destroying the house next door in a dilapidated Gaza refugee camp. Palestinian witnesses said that Mrs. Sweidan, 33, bled to death under the rubble as she cradled her 18-month-old daughter. Her unborn baby also died.

March 4

In 2002 an Israeli tank fired at a civilian car in Ramallah governorate in an apparent attempt to assassinate a Hamas activist. He was not in the car at the time; instead, his wife was transporting three of their children family from the school. They and another two children were also killed.

March 9

In 1906 the US colonialist army slaughtered 600 Filipino resistance fighters including woman and children who had retreated to the Dajo crater. From the sides of the crater the US military used artillery and deadly small arms fire against a foe armed mainly with knives and clubs. The official report extolled the “gallantry of our troops”.

March 10

In 1945 300 B-29s dropped 2,000 tons of incendiaries on one section of Tokyo – a space seven-tenths the size of Manhattan – and in 2½ hours “scorched and boiled and baked to death” 100,000 people. The quoted words are from General Curtis LeMay who later became famous for his boast of bombing Vietnam back to the Stone Age.

In 1998 Israeli soldiers opened fire with automatic weapons on a van full of unarmed Palestinian workers, killing Adnan Abu Zneid, 34, and two other Palestinians. Two more laborers were wounded as the group returned from helping to construct a building near Tel Aviv. Eyewitnesses described the Israeli gunfire as “indiscriminate.” Israeli Army Maj. Uzi Dayan said that the soldiers acted “according to regulations” in opening fire on the van with automatic weapons at a checkpoint outside Hebron. Ali Abu Zneid, 37, a cousin of the deceased, was in the van and fell uninjured under the others’ bodies. He

said that the Jewish soldiers, “shot to kill.” Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai described the killings as an “accident”

March 13

In 1948 the Israeli Haganah terrorist gang attacked the village of Al-Hussainiyya, an Arab village in the district of Safad, destroying its houses with explosives and killing 30 of the inhabitants.

March 14

In 1978 Israel invaded Lebanon and occupied the southern part of the country killing several thousand Lebanese and Palestinians, driving hundreds of thousands to the north, and leaving a region of the south under the control of a murderous proxy force, Major Haddad’s militia. The militia originally known as the “Army of Free Lebanon” was later renamed the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

March 16

In 1968 the angry and frustrated men of Charlie Company, 11th Brigade, Americal Division entered the village of My Lai in Vietnam. “This is what you’ve been waiting for – search and destroy – and you’ve got it,” said their superior officers. A short time later the killing began. As the “search and destroy” mission unfolded it soon degenerated into the massacre of over 300 apparently unarmed civilians including women, children, and the elderly.

In 2003 Rachel Corrie, a young American was murdered by Israeli occupation forces while she was trying to prevent the destruction of Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip.

March 17

In 1978 Israeli warplanes destroyed the mosque of the town of Abbasieh, South Lebanon over the heads of the women, children and the elderly who used the holy place as a shelter from the heavy Israeli shelling. 80 civilians aged from 2 to 80 died.

March 18

In 1970 the CIA overthrew the neutral government of Prince Sihanouk in Cambodia, and installed a puppet government under Lon Nol, the chief of staff of the Cambodian army. Demonstrations erupted against the fascist military regime in 17 of Cambodia’s 19 provinces. But they were drowned in blood. Hundreds of Lon Nol’s opponents were executed by beheading. When reporters later asked President Richard Nixon about Lon Nol’s slaughter of unarmed men, women and children, he replied: “The Lon Nol government is a sovereign government. We cannot do anything.” The American interference in Cambodia led to the rise of the Khmer Rouge which achieved power in 1975 and massacred millions of its own people.

March 21

In 1994 Israeli warplanes targeted a school bus in Nabateya, South Lebanon, killing two and wounding 28 children.

March 24

In 1976 Jorge Rafael Videla led the military coup which ousted the ineffective president, Isabel Perón. Though armed leftist groups had been shattered by the time of the coup, the generals still organized a counter-insurgency campaign to eradicate any remnants of what they judged political subversion. By 1983 during the so-called Dirty War the military slaughtered from 10,000 to 30,000 Argentines. Relatives of the victims, however, continued to uncover evidence that children taken from their mothers' wombs sometimes were being raised as the adopted children of their mothers' murderers.

In October 1976 Henry Kissinger, then Secretary of State, in a discussion with the visiting Argentinean foreign minister, Admiral César Augusto Guzzetti, reassured the foreign minister that he had US backing in whatever he did.

In 1999 NATO began the bombing of Serbia which lasted 79 days. Several thousand civilians were killed and more than 6,000 sustained serious injuries, while a large number of them will remain crippled for life. Children make up 30% of all casualties, as well as 40% of the total number of the injured, while 10% of all Yugoslav children (approximately 300,000) have suffered severe psychological traumas. For the most part, children have been victims of the sprinkle cluster bombs with delayed effect. NATO strikes seriously damaged many clinical and hospital centers and abruptly put a stop to the education of close to one million pupils and students in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. More than 480 schools, faculties and facilities for students and children were damaged or destroyed (25 faculties, 15 colleges, 100 secondary, 320 elementary schools, 20 student dormitories), as well as more than 50 pre-school facilities. NATO destroyed or damaged during its two month long bombing more than 365 monasteries, churches and other religious shrines, as well as other cultural and historic monuments of exceptional cultural and civilizational value, some under UNESCO protection.

Preliminary estimates indicate that barbaric air strikes of the NATO alliance against industrial, commercial and civil facilities and infrastructure throughout the territory of the FR of Yugoslavia, have incurred damages in excess of 100 billion dollars.

March 26

In 2003 at least 14 civilians were killed and 30 injured after coalition air strikes hit a market in Baghdad. Witnesses at the scene reported burned bodies on the streets of the northern residential Shaab district. Television footage showed a large crater in the middle of the road, smoldering and damaged buildings, a child with a head bandage, and bodies wrapped in plastic sheeting in the back of a pick-up truck. Wrecked cars were strewn across the roads, some still ablaze. The center of the blast seems to have been a busy shopping street of ground floor shops under blocks of flats. Residents said there were no military targets in the area. Others described hearing a low flying aircraft followed by two loud explosions. Local people claimed "dozens and dozens" were dead while Lieutenant Colonel Hamad Abdullah, head of civil defense for the area, said 14 people were killed and 30 injured when two cruise missiles hit the area. In London, the Prime Minister's official spokesman said Downing Street was seeking information about the market blast, but at this stage did not know the cause of the explosion. He added: "We have always accepted that there will be some very regrettable civilian casualties."

March 28

In 1954 a force of Israeli paratroopers attacked the Palestinian Arab village of Nahalin, killing nine of its inhabitants and injuring 19 others. The commander of the operation was Ariel Sharon.

In 2003 some 55 Iraqi civilians were killed and 50 others injured when US and British warplanes bombed a residential marketplace in Baghdad. The attack occurred in a poor district in the western Sou'la district. Iraqi sources said Cruise or Tomahawk missiles were used in the new Anglo-American bombing.

March 29

In 2002 the Israeli army launched Operation Defensive Shield, the largest military offensive against Palestinian civilians since the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. During the operation, the military used the most advanced weaponry at its disposal: Merkava tanks, Apache attack helicopters and F-15 fighter jets. When the operation ended on April 21, Israel had destroyed the Palestinian economic and social infrastructure, leveled large swathes of residential area, killed 220 people, injured hundreds more and arrested thousands.

April 1

In 1964 a CIA backed military coup overthrew the democratically elected government of João Goulart in Brazil. The junta that replaced it became one of the most blood-thirsty in history. General Castelo Branco created Latin America's first death squads (secret police who hunt down "Communists" for torture and murder, usually just political opponents). Later it was revealed that the CIA trained these death squads.

April 2

In 2002 the Israeli Army attacked the area around Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. US-made Israeli helicopter gunships, backed by F-16 fighter jets, hovered over Manger Square machine-gunning Palestinians near Jesus' traditional birth site. Some ten Palestinians were killed in the onslaught, including an 80-year-old man. At the nearby Santa Maria Convent in downtown Bethlehem run by the Salesians, an order of nuns, a Palestinian mother and her son were also killed: 64-year-old Samieh Abdeh and her 38-year-old son Khaled, were wounded by Israeli fire, then bled to death after Israelis prevented ambulances from reaching them. A reporter for al-Jazeera satellite television, Majdi Benoura, was shot in the neck by Israelis as he was photographing the Israeli assault on Bethlehem from the roof of a hotel.

April 3

In 1948 the people of Cheju Island rose up to protest the rule of the US military government and the separate election in South Korea which threatened to divide the nation. The uprising lasted for seven years, during which nearly one-third of the island's population, or approximately 80,000 people, were killed because they were accused of being communists.

In 2002 the Israeli Army launched a massive military assault on the men, women and children of the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank, Palestine. For days on end the Israelis fired shells from tanks and missiles from Apache helicopter gunships into the houses of the densely populated camp, as Israeli snipers picked people off one by one, and Israeli soldiers went house to house, blowing people up, kicking in doors and machine-gunning everyone inside. The exact number of dead may never be known, because the Israelis made every effort to cover up their war crimes, literally. Using giant armored 60-ton Caterpillar bulldozers they tore down every house in the huge central area of the camp where most of the murders took place, burying some people alive, along with most of the corpses of those who were already dead.

April 9

In 1948 the Irgun Zvai Leumi led by Menachem Begin, a former Israeli Cabinet Minister and former leader of the Opposition in the Israeli Parliament, attacked the small Arab village of Deir Yassin near Jerusalem. Three hundred persons were massacred ... without any military reason or provocation of any kind; old men women, children, newly-born were savagely murdered with grenades and knives by Jewish troops of the Irgun, entirely under the control of their chiefs.

April 12

In 1999 in Grdelica gorge on the bridge over the Juzna Morava river a NATO warplane destroyed a civilian passenger train that was crossing the bridge. In the description of this massacre, it is said that the F-15 pilot fired two bombs. The first one hit the metallic structure of the bridge after which the train stopped. But the pilot did not stop. After the first bomb, he fired another one directly at the train. 11 people were killed and several badly injured.

In 2002 the US supported a coup against the democratically elected (in 1998) government of Venezuela under President Hugo Chávez, an outspoken anti-Imperialist and the most popular Venezuelan president in history.

April 13

In 1929, protesting against the British enactment of Rowlatt Act in 1919, which gave wide coercive powers to the government, thousands of Indians gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh in the heart of Amritsar city, one of the major towns of Punjab state. The occasion was Baisakhi Day, a traditional festival on which people celebrate the beginning of the harvesting season by congregating in community fairs. The gathering was in defiance of the prohibitory orders banning a gathering of five or more persons in the city. The Bagh, or park, was bounded on all sides by brick walls and had a single narrow entrance/exit.

Accounts of the British motives vary. One account says that the massacre was a reprisal for the deaths of four Europeans, and the beating of a woman missionary. Another explanation is that it was to crush the gathering.

Troops marched to the park accompanied by an armored vehicle on which machine guns were mounted. The vehicle was unable to enter the park compound due to the narrow entrance.

The troops were commanded by General Reginald Dyer who after a couple of perfunctory warnings to the crowds, ordered his men to open fire. Since there was no other exit but the one already manned by the troops, people desperately tried to exit the park by trying to climb the walls of the park. Some people also jumped into a well to escape the bullets.

When the firing was over, hundreds of people had been killed and thousands had been injured (official estimates were 379 killed and 1,200 injured, though the actual figure could be much higher).

In 1996 in Mansouri, South Lebanon, an Israeli helicopter spotted an ambulance moving up a road near Tyre and hit it with a rocket, killing 3 small children, their mother and 3 other women. Israeli officials attempted to justify the attack by claiming that the driver was a known fighter with Hezbollah and that the ambulance belonged to the organization.

April 14

In 1989 Israeli border guards and settlers attacked the peaceful and unarmed village of Nahalin near Bethlehem. Eight Palestinians were massacred for no reason and over 50 were injured. The killings took place late in the night and at the beginning of the Holy month of Ramadan.

In 1999 in the NATO attack on two ethnic Albanian refugee columns on the Djakovica-Prizren road in Kosova with four cruise missiles, 75 civilians were killed (among them 19 children) and 100 wounded, of whom 26 critically.

April 15

In 1986 19 warplanes of the US Air Force took off from their bases in Great Britain and flew to Libya, whereupon the F111 pilots bombed the private house of Muammar Qadhafi and murdered his two-year-old daughter. At least 100 other people – including civilian men, women and children – were slaughtered as the heroic US Air Force pilots bombed private homes and mosques all over Tripoli and Benghazi.

April 18

In 1996 the Israelis perpetrated a horrible massacre against hundreds of civilians taking shelter in the UNIFIL headquarters in Qana, Lebanon because of fear of shelling. Not a single body could be recognized because they were burned to death in a massacre which shocked the world.

April 19

In 1993 the US government massacred at least 80 people including women and children in Waco, Texas using chemical weapons and gunfire.

April 20

In 1914 20 innocent men, women and children were killed in the Ludlow Massacre on a day of infamy for American workers.

In 1999 on the same day twelve people were gunned down at the Columbine school in Littleton, Colorado, the US dropped hundreds of bombs on Kosova, more than on any other day. Bill Clinton, the US president who ordered the bombings, said about Columbine that “[we must] hammer home to all the children of America that violence is wrong [and] show our children by the power of our own example how to resolve conflicts peacefully.”

April 21

In 1967 the democratically elected government of Greece was overthrown by a CIA coup led by George Papadopoulos who became the dictator. During Papadopoulos' first month in power, 8,000 so-called “leftists” were imprisoned and tortured. Greece was expelled from the European Commission on Human Rights but continued to receive US aid. The junta finally fell in 1974.

April 28

In 1965, in order to “prevent another Cuba”, to suppress a popular insurrection, an estimated 20,000 US troops invaded the Dominican Republic. Most of the whites in the country were evacuated by US forces, the popular revolt was crushed and US troops remained in the country until 1966.

April 30

In 1999 US/British warplanes carried out several sorties over the areas of Ninewa Governorate, Iraq. The jets fired four missiles at Bashiqa area near Mosul city. At Kuban village (30 km from Mosul) 7 civilians were killed, a shepherd and six members of his family. 101 livestock died. A UN team visited on May 2.

May 1

In 1999 a NATO missile blew up a civilian bus on a bridge 10 miles north of the Kosovan capital Pristina, killing at least 24 people and critically wounding 16 others. Tanjug, Yugoslavia's official news agency, reported that 40 people had been killed. The private Beta news agency reported 60 people dead. The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry said 47 were killed. Paul Watson of the Los Angeles Times reported that, “A bomb exploded on that bridge about 1:51 p.m., and when a clearly marked civilian ambulance tried to cross along a smaller, parallel bridge at 1:55 p.m., a second bomb struck. Shrapnel from that blast wounded a civilian medical technician in the forehead and prevented other ambulances from reaching the carnage at the destroyed bus.”

May 4

In 1970 National Guard troops opened fire at American students at Kent State University in Ohio. Four unarmed students were murdered outright, another was permanently paralyzed, and eight others were wounded by gunfire. Some of the victims were in-

volved in an anti-war protest, but others were merely walking by the killing zone on their university campus.

May 7

In 1999 in the southern city of Nis, Yugoslavia, NATO claimed it made a mistake. Instead of hitting a military building near the airport about three miles (5 km) away the bombers dropped their lethal load in a tangle of back streets close to the city center. At least thirty-three people were killed and scores more suffered catastrophic injuries; hands, feet and arms shredded or blown away altogether, abdomens and chests ripped open by shards of flying metal. This had been no "ordinary" shelling, if such a thing exists. The area had been hit by cluster bombs, devices designed to cause a deadly spray of hot metal fragments when they explode."

May 12

In 1999 US/British war planes flew over the governorates of Thi-Qar, Muthana, Basrah and Missan and fired at service facilities around Mosul. Two were killed and seven others wounded in the south. In an air strike between 11:00hrs and 13:00 hrs in the village of Abuwini, 90 km NW of Mosul 14 shepherds/farmers were killed and 22 injured. 300 livestock also died. 1 vehicle, 1 wagon and 1 harvester were destroyed. A UN team visited on May 14.

May 13

In 1985 police and National Guard forces were used to attack the MOVE activist community in Philadelphia, United States. In the process, the various forces opted to aerial bomb the MOVE activists, destroying 60 homes and killing eleven people, including small children.

May 14

In 1999 NATO planes bombed the village of Korisa near Prizren in Kosova, using cluster bombs. Officials said that the investigating team had so far registered 81 bodies of ethnic Albanians killed. Parts of the burned body parts could be found up to one kilometer away from the site....killing what Serbian officials and survivors say were more than 80 Albanian refugees. The attack on Korisa killed perhaps more Albanian civilians than any other in the two-month-old NATO air campaign, which has been criticized for its fatal mistakes. At the time, NATO officials said the village was a legitimate military target..."

May 16

In 1916 after years of interference in the Dominican Republic US troops landed to suppress a popular insurrection and stayed until 1924.

May 18

In 2002 eleven people at an Afghani wedding party were killed by US bombing in the village of Balkhiel, near the Pakistani border. US officials insisted their aircraft came under attack, but the Afghans said they were firing into the air to celebrate a wedding.

May 19

In 1999 NATO warplanes resumed the bombardment of Belgrade, striking the capital city of Yugoslavia repeatedly in the night of May 19-20. Bombs and missiles destroyed part of a major hospital complex and hit the embassies or residences of seven foreign ambassadors. It was the first large-scale strike on the city since the destruction of the Chinese embassy May 7. After the usual initial denials, NATO spokesmen admitted that a missile fired into the Dedinje district had hit the Dragisa Misovic hospital. The blast killed at least three people and injured many more. It destroyed the hospital's intensive care unit and neurological center and damaged the maternity unit and emergency room.

In 2004 Israeli tanks and helicopters fired missiles and shells at a Palestinian demonstration in the Gaza Strip, killing at least ten children and teenagers and wounding dozens.

May 20

In 1990 an Israeli soldier called Ami Bouber, using a machine-gun, opened fire on a group of Palestinian workers who assembled early in the morning in the Palestinian village of Oyon Qara near Tel-Aviv, killing seven of them on the spot.

May 21

In 1948 an Israeli force arrived in armored vehicles at Beit Daras, a Palestinian Arab village 46 kms northeast of the city of Gaza, and surrounded it to prevent the arrival of any reinforcements. The force began to heavily shell the village with artillery and mortars. The Israelis asked the women, children and elderly people to leave the village. When they reached the outskirts of the village, the Israelis opened fire on them, giving no regard to their being women, children and elderly.

May 22

In 1948 on the night of May 22/23 Israeli troops occupied al Tantura, a Palestinian Arab village located on the seaside of the Mediterranean, 24 kms to the south of the city of Haifa. The killers took the men of the village to the village cemetery and made them stand in lines. The Israeli commander asked his troops to select ten of the men, who were led near the cactus trees, where they fired on them. The killers then took the other men to remove the bodies of the first ten, whereupon they fired on them. This method continued unabated until more than 200 Tantura villagers, mostly unarmed young men, had been shot.

May 30

In 1999 NATO warplanes demolished the bridge on Velika Morava River near Varvarin in Yugoslavia. At least 11 civilians were killed and 40 persons were severely injured. The special hospital for tuberculosis, a home for the elderly and two pavilions of the Refugee centre in Surdulica were hit. At least 17 children and helpless old people lost their lives.

June 6

In 1982 the Israeli armed forces invaded Lebanon for the second time. Around 18,000 people were killed and 30,000 injured and between 500,000-800,000 made homeless in the first three months of the invasion.

June 7

In 1981 the Israelis bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osiraq. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officials stated that no weapons had been manufactured at Osiraq and that Iraqi officials had regularly cooperated with agency inspectors. They also pointed out that Iraq was a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (informally called the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT) and that Baghdad had complied with all IAEA guidelines. The Israeli nuclear facility at Dimona, it was pointed out, was not under IAEA safeguards, because Israel had not signed the NPT and had refused to open its facilities to UN inspections.

June 8

In 1967 Israel attacked the USS Liberty with aircraft and torpedo boats, killing 34 young men and wounding 171. The attack in international waters followed over nine hours of close surveillance.

June 18

In 1954 the CIA sponsored a military coup in Guatemala. Most historians now agree that the coup was the poison arrow that pierced the heart of Guatemala's young democracy. Code-named "PBSUCCESS," the covert operation overthrew Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, the second legally elected president in Guatemalan history. Guzman had threatened to nationalize the Rockefeller-owned United Fruit Company, in which CIA Director Allen Dulles also owned stock. Over the next four decades, a succession of military rulers would wage counter-insurgency warfare that also would shred the fabric of Guatemalan society. The violence caused the deaths and disappearances of more than 140,000 Guatemalans. Some human rights activists put the death toll as high as 250,000.

June 19

In 2004 US forces launched an air strike on a safe house they linked to elusive al Qaeda operative Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in the flashpoint Iraqi city of Falluja, killing 22 people in a "precision strike". "An American plane hit this house and three others were damaged. Only body parts are left," a witness said, as rescuers dug through the rubble of the shattered house for survivors. "They brought us 22 corpses, children, women and youth," Ahmed Hassan, a cemetery worker, said after the blast.

June 21

In 2002 two Palestinian boys, 9-year-old Ahmad Ghazawi and 6-year old Sujud Fahmawi, were killed by Israeli tank fire in a market in Jenin after unknowing breaking the curfew. According to eyewitnesses, Israeli occupation soldiers fired tank shells aimed directly at the citizens who came out to buy bread and other foodstuffs they badly needed, after having been confined to their homes by the 3-day-old Israeli-imposed cur-

few. Two crowded market places and several neighborhoods were fired at, even though swarms of children as young as three were filling these areas, eyewitnesses confirm.

Ali Jabarin, vice chairman of Jenin's Al-Razi hospital, where many of the wounded were taken, said that hundreds of people were under the impression that the curfew had been lifted and were milling about in the streets when tanks fired shells and Israeli soldiers fired with machine guns in several areas: two market streets and a number of neighborhoods. "Even if everyone was mistaken and the curfew was still in force," he said, "that did not give the Israelis the right to fire on civilians with the 105mm or 120 mm cannons that commonly equip Israel's 65-ton Merkava tanks. They could have said over a loud-speaker: 'People of Jenin, we did not lift the curfew, please go home or we will open fire in 10 minutes,'" he added. "But they did not. They just opened fire on people who were out to get food and water for their children." "The [Israeli] force erred in its action," said the Israeli occupation army yesterday in a short statement.

June 24

In 1999 Israeli war planes carried out a series of raids against bridges and the electricity network in Lebanon. The bombardment resulted in killing six Lebanese civilians and wounding 86 others.

In 2002 an Israeli Apache helicopter fired two missiles against a taxi carrying five passengers. When hit, the taxi was only about 500 m from Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital. The shelling completely destroyed the car, all five passengers were killed. In addition, other cars driving in the area, were hit by big pieces of shrapnel. Midhat 'Abdul Hadi al-Jourani, 17, who was sitting in the back seat of one of the cars, was killed when his head was separated from his body by shrapnel. Thirteen other bystanders were injured.

June 27

In 1973 the Uruguayan President and Military, backed by the US, formed a military-civilian dictatorship dissolving parliament and illegalizing unions. This marked the culmination of 5 years of military civilian cooperation in war on "communist" terrorism which was used as a cover to disrupt and repress social movements. In the 12 years of the dictatorship many activists were assassinated, one in every 50 Uruguayans were jailed, more than 300,000 fled into exile, and approx. 170 were disappeared. The fabric of society was torn apart through direct repression, censorship, and control.

In 1986 the World Court ruled that American actions to destabilize the democratically elected Sandinista Government in Nicaragua represented an unlawful use of force. The US completely ignored this ruling and continued to carry on their campaign of destruction.

June 30

In 1946 at 22:00:34 GMT (09:00:34 1 July local time) the first of 67 atomic/nuclear tests was conducted by the United States in the Marshall Islands. The first test in the "Crossroads" series was the experimental "ABLE," 23KT, which was air-dropped over Bikini Atoll. The following links (omitted) are just a starting point in the horrendous account of

nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands including first-hand accounts by Bikini Elders and US seamen along with radio links, photos and artwork.

July 1

In 2002 a US AC-130 helicopter gun-ship and B-52 bomber blasted a wedding party in the village of Kakarak in Afghanistan, leaving scores of people dead – among them women and children – and at least 40 injured.

July 2

In 1954 an Israeli spy ring in Egypt planted firebombs at several locations, including the US Information Service libraries in Cairo and Alexandria. The attacks were intended to damage US-Egyptian ties.

July 3

In 1988 the USS Vincennes shot down Iranair Flight 655, which resulted in the deaths of over 290 innocent passengers.

July 6

In 1938 a member of the Irgun (the Israeli terrorist group under the leadership of Ze'ev Jabotinsky), disguised as an Arab, went to the Arab market in Haifa, placed a large parcel beside one of the barrows in the center of the market and left. Shortly afterwards there was a heavy explosion, which killed 21 Arabs and injured more than 50.

July 7

In 1898 the US annexed the Hawaiian Islands, the culmination of more than fifty years of growing US commercial interests in Hawaii.

July 11

In 1938 a Jewish terrorist hurled a bomb into a Mosque in Jerusalem. Ten people were killed and 30 other people saying their prayers were wounded.

July 17

In 1927 the US Marine Corps engaged in its very first aerial dive bombing attack. The dive bombing was against Nicaraguan peasants who had successfully surrounded US occupation troops at Ocotal, Nicaragua.

In 1982 US supplied Israeli F-4 and F-5 jets swooped low over Beirut, Lebanon in 4 passes, bombing the densely-populated Fakahani district. Five tall apartment buildings were destroyed, 200 people were killed and 800 wounded. Forty percent of the victims were small children, and one of the survivors was an unborn baby pulled by doctors from the dead mother's womb.

July 18

In 1999 US/British planes attacked several civilian facilities in the southern no-fly-zone in Abu Sukhayr between Najaf and Samawa (12 km south of Najaf, about 200 km from Baghdad) and Al-Khider on Samawa-Nasirriyah road (300 km south of Baghdad, about

40 km south of Samawa). Another airstrike took place in the northern no-fly-zone, several civilian facilities were hit. 17 persons were killed and 18 were injured. A number of houses were demolished in Al-Manathra area in Abu Sukhayr in Najaf governorate. 4 missiles crashes on or near a main road leading south from the city of Najaf and several cars were burnt out in Sunday's attack. A pregnant woman and her husband were killed in a pick-up truck and 6 others in an all-terrain car.

July 22

In 1946 the King David hotel in Jerusalem was bombed, killing 92 Britons, Arabs and Jews and wounding 58. It was not just an act of "Jewish extremists", but a premeditated massacre conducted by the Irgun (under the leadership of future Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin) in agreement with the highest Jewish political authorities in Palestine – the Jewish Agency and its head David Ben-Gurion.

In 2002 an Israeli F-16 jet dropped a one-ton guided bomb on an apartment block in Gaza City, resulting in the deaths of 15 people including nine children, one a 2-month-old baby. Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said "there was no intent on harming civilians." Ariel Sharon described the attack as "one of the great successes".

July 24

In 1943 Operation Gomorrah, the "total destruction" of Hamburg, Germany's second largest city, began, and continued for two more days with daylight raids by USAAF Fortresses. A final attack on the night of 27 July dumped another 1,200 tons of incendiaries on workers' housing.

A new and unforeseen weapon came into play at Hamburg – the firestorm. Martin Middlebrook describes one in *The Battle of Hamburg*. "A thermal column of wind generated heat in excess of 1,400 degrees Fahrenheit, melting trolley windows and the asphalt in streets, the wind uprooting trees. When people crossed a street, their feet stuck in the melted asphalt; they tried to extricate themselves with their hands, only to find them stuck as well. They remained on all fours screaming. Small children lay like "fried eels" on the pavement. The firestorm sucked all the oxygen out of the city; a 15 year-old girl said that the brains of people in shelters "tumbled from their burst temples and their insides [extruded] from the soft parts under the ribs." There are claims that Bomber Command killed at least 45,000 men, women, and children at Hamburg.

July 25

In 1898, US troops landed in Puerto Rico and seized the island as a prize of the Spanish-American War. The colonial relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico has not fundamentally changed since that time. The island remains a political anachronism, a throwback to the age of gunboat diplomacy and the handlebar mustache. Colonialism is inherently anti-democratic. In Puerto Rico, the population cannot vote for president of the United States, but can be drafted to fight and die in the wars of the United States. The island is represented in Congress only by a non-voting resident commissioner, yet Congress controls virtually all significant aspects of Puerto Rican political life.

July 28

In 1915 the US invaded Haiti to suppress a popular insurrection and remained there until 1934, turning Haiti into an American protectorate. The US Marines' first action was to blast into the Haitian national treasury, take all the gold, and ship it to the First National City Bank in New York. They tore up the Haitian Constitution, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then Secretary of the US Navy, wrote a new one. His allowed foreigners to own land. US companies then grabbed the most fertile valleys and set up agribusinesses growing sugar, rubber, sisal, and other crops. Haitians were again enslaved. In a true expression of imperialist disdain for the Haitians, the US installed president of Haiti was banned from the US Officers' Club in Port-au-Prince because he was black.

In 1967 an elite US Army unit known as Tiger Force approached 10 elderly farmers in a rice paddy in Quang Ngai, Vietnam. With bullets flying, the farmers – slowed by the thick, green plants and muck – dropped one by one to the ground. Within minutes, it was over. Four were dead, others wounded. Some survived by lying motionless in the mud. Four soldiers later recalled the assault. "We knew the farmers were not armed to begin with," one said, "but we shot them anyway."

July 29

In 1999 US/British planes bombed several civilian facilities at Al-Kut (170 km southeast Baghdad). Several civilian facilities near Mosul (Al-Jarrar and Al-Numanniyah) were also hit. 8 persons were killed and 25 near Al-Kut. 1 person was injured in Mosul.

July 30

In 1999 US/British planes bombed several civilian facilities and service installations north and northwest of Mosul in Iraq. Another airstrike took place in the southern no-fly-zone, where a civilian facility in Najaf was hit. 6 persons were killed and 21 were injured near Mosul. In the south, 3 persons were killed and 2 were injured in Najaf.

August 6

In 1945 the US dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima even though Japan was trying to surrender. As a result hundreds of thousands of people died.

August 9

In 1945 the US dropped an atom bomb on Nagasaki even though Japan was trying to surrender. As a result hundreds of thousands of people died.

August 11

In 2000 in Southern Iraq 2 civilians were killed and 19 injured in Samawa when British/US planes hit a warehouse used to store food for the UN oil-for-food deal as well as several homes.

August 19

In 1953 the CIA overthrew the popular Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh and re-installed Reza Pahlavi as Shah of Iran. Over 300 people were killed and many hundreds

were wounded in the nine hours of fighting. The future cost to the people of Iran was incalculable. Thousands were executed during the next twenty-five years of the Shah's reign, and the people became more impoverished. SAVAK, the secret police created and trained by the CIA, was described by Amnesty International in 1976 as having a "history of torture which is beyond belief. No country in the world has a worse record in human rights than Iran."

August 20

In 1995 in "Operation Infinite Reach" President Clinton launched a cruise missile attack against a civilian pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum on the spurious charge that it was involved in the production of nerve gas. Later it was confirmed that not only was the facility not used for making chemical weapons, it was even contracted to the United Nations. It produced 90 percent of Sudan's major pharmaceutical products. Sanctions against Sudan make it impossible to import adequate amounts of medicines required to cover the serious gap left by the plant's destruction. Thus, tens of thousands of people – many of them children – have suffered and died from malaria, tuberculosis, and other treatable diseases.

August 21

In 1971 the CIA backed a military coup in Bolivia against leftist President Juan Torres. He is replaced by the brutal dictator Hugo Banzer. Actively supported by right-wing leaders in the US and Britain, he was responsible for at least 72 murders and 33 disappearances of Bolivians in Bolivia, 36 murders and disappearances of Bolivians in Argentina, eight murders and disappearances of Bolivians in Chile, 15,000 arbitrary arrests and an indeterminate number of cases of torture, according to human rights groups.

August 23

In 1953 the Israeli army attacked Breij Camp, a Palestinian refugee camp in the Gaza Sector and hurled hand grenades into the windows of the shacks. They then fired at the refugees who were trying to escape. They killed 20 persons, and injured 62 others. The massacre was perpetrated by Unit 101, led by Ariel Sharon, who personally took part in the massacre. The killers blew up a great number of houses. Israeli sources admitted killing 20 persons and wounding 20 others.

August 30

In 2004 eight Afghan villagers were killed and an Afghan aid worker injured when US-led coalition planes bombed a northeastern village after a firefight with militants, a Danish aid group said. It happened at Waradesh in Pech district in Kunar province. The Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) staff operating a water pipeline project said their water supply tank was also bombed and an aid worker injured.

September 8

In 1972, without any apparent cause or reason, Israeli Phantoms bombed Palestinian targets in Lebanon and Syria in a series of raids killing hundreds of civilians. This action was explained by the Israeli prime minister the next day, who said in the Knesset, that

“Israel had now adopted a new policy to strike at the terrorist organizations where ever we can reach them.”

September 11

In 1973, in a bloody coup, Henry Kissinger and the CIA helped General Augusto Pinochet overthrow the democratically-elected leftist government of President Salvador Allende. The Fascist puppet-regime of Augusto Pinochet then embarked on a 17-year terror campaign against the people of Chile, which included mass arrests and executions, death squads, torture and disappearances. Many of the victims were fingered as “radicals” by lists provided by the CIA.

Santiago’s national stadium was used as a mass execution site. Robert Saldias, the first army officer to come forward publicly without concealing his identity, said prisoners entering the stadium were identified by yellow, black, and red discs. “Whoever received a red disc had no chance,” Saldias said.

Many of the professional torturers and assassins in the Chilean military (and in every other Fascist country of Central and South America) were trained at the School of the Americas, in Fort Benning, Georgia.

September 11th – and no mention of the World Trade Center? I forgot; this is the SPIN ZONE.

September 16

In 1982 fifty members of the Falange, a group supported by Israel, entered the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon and butchered 3,500 Palestinian men women and children over a period of three days, while the Israeli invasion force looked the other way. Ariel Sharon was later found to be personally responsible by an Israeli inquiry.

September 17

In 1948 Count Folke Bernadotte, a UN mediator, was murdered by the Israeli terrorist group known as the Stern Gang. Bernadotte, a Swede with family ties to the Swedish King, gained international recognition through his work as head of the Swedish Red Cross during World War II. Bernadotte had used his position to negotiate with Heinrich Himmler and save thousands of Jews from concentration camps. The Stern Gang was at the time part of the Israeli military. The man generally acknowledged to have signed off on the hit, Yitzhak Shamir, went on to become a prime minister of Israel decades later.

September 26

In 2002 Israeli forces killed Gharam Mana’, who is less than one year old. She died after exposure to tear gas, while being with her grandmother in Bab al-Zawiyya in Hebron. Israeli forces regularly discharge tear gas not only to quell demonstrations, but also as a means of punishment and harassment. When used improperly, tear gas is a lethal form of ammunition; hence practices such as throwing it into enclosed spaces or aiming it di-

rectly at individuals clearly violate the international principles of necessity and proportionality concerning law enforcement conduct.

September 28

In 2000 Ariel Sharon made a well-planned, provocative little “visit” to the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem accompanied by a thousand heavily-armed Israeli troops. (All authorized by Prime Minister Barak.) This touched off a spontaneous riot among the Palestinians who were there, during which six Palestinian people were shot dead by the Israelis.

September 30

In 2000 Muhammad al-Dura, a twelve-year-old Palestinian boy, was shot and killed in front of TV cameras by Israeli occupation forces. He is just one of the 450+ Palestinian children killed by the Israelis since September 2000.

October 3

In 1993 in Mogadishu, Somalia, a group of 40 Delta Force, Special Forces and about 75 Rangers set off to try to capture Somali leaders supporting General Mohammed Farah Aideed, the Mogadishu warlord, who were meeting in a house near the center of town. Helicopter gunships began the ill-fated raid by firing anti-tank missiles into houses. The US troops took hostages and murdered wounded Somalis and a prisoner. They also used the bodies of Somalis as barricades. Ambassador Robert Oakley, the US special representative to Somalia, said that more than 1,000 Somalis were killed during the raid. In all, between 6,000 and 10,000 Somalis died during the US/UN intervention. US Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni estimated that two-thirds of the casualties were women and children.

October 6

In 1976, a Havana-bound Cubana Airlines DC-8 was destroyed in mid-air by a bomb. The plane had taken off from Caracas, Venezuela with 73 people aboard. Of those, 19 were members of the junior fencing team (mostly 18, 19 and 20 year olds) who had just won all the gold medals at a fencing competition in Caracas. The flight was routine and of no military significance. There were no survivors. Four anticommunist Cuban exiles were arrested in Venezuela and charged with this dreadful crime. All were revealed to have been trained by the US Central Intelligence Agency and had long-term associations with US intelligence agencies. All were veterans of the CIA-orchestrated invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

The masterminds of the airplane bombing, spirited out of Venezuelan prison by bribing jailers and judges, still enjoy the protection of the US government and CIA. Luis Posada Carilles, who walked out of the prison and “disappeared”, later surfaced as a CIA asset in El Salvador helping run the guns-for-cocaine flights for the Nicaraguan Contras. (He more recently turned up taking credit for the ordering the bombings of a number of Cuban hotels and restaurants that left one Italian-Canadian visitor dead, others scarred and mutilated, and many more traumatized.) The other, Orlando Bosch, freely walks the

streets of Miami, after a judge was persuaded to turn down the Immigration Department's request to deport him as a proven and repeated terrorist.

October 7

In 2001 the US started the war against Afghanistan. An estimated 3,767 civilians were killed in the initial bombing campaign that lasted eight and a half weeks.

October 10

In 2001 the Sultanpur Mosque in Jalalabad, Afghanistan was hit by a US bomb during prayers, killing 17 people. As neighbors rushed into the rubble to pull out the injured, a second bomb was dropped killing at least another 120 people.

October 11

In 2001 the farming village of 450 persons of Karam, west of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, was repeatedly bombed, 45 of the 60 mud houses were destroyed, killing at least 160 civilians.

October 13

In 2001, in the morning, an F-18 dropped 2000lb JDAM bombs upon the poor Qila Meer Abas neighborhood, 2 km south of Kabul airport, killing 4.

October 14

In 1953, in the Jordanian village of Qibya, a total of 69 civilians were murdered in a six hour killing spree, which almost totally destroyed the town. The attackers blew up about forty houses, a school, water pumping station, police station and telephone office. At the head of the Israeli special forces group responsible was Ariel Sharon.

October 16

In 2001 the US bombed Red Cross warehouses in Kabul, Afghanistan, destroying vital food supplies. The warehouses contained food and blankets the Red Cross was in the process of distributing to 55,000 disabled and other needy Afghan civilians. Despite the buildings being marked by a 3m x 3m Red Cross flag, the Americans claimed it was an "accident". Ten days later they bombed the warehouses again, despite the buildings now being marked by a 9m x 9m Red Cross flag. On October 29, CNN reported, "Pentagon sources say despite a public apology, the United States intentionally bombed a Red Cross warehouse in Kabul for a second time, in order to deny food to the Taliban."

October 17

In 1948 Israeli planes attacked Al-Majdal, a Palestinian Arab town, 25 kms north of the city of Gaza. It had a population of 10,900. A large number of its inhabitants were killed, besides some Palestinians who had taken refuge in the north of Majdal and were living in tents.

October 18

In 2001 the central market place of Sarai Shamali in the Madad district of Kandahar, Afghanistan was bombed by the US, killing 47 civilians.

October 19

In 2001 US planes circled over Tarin Kot in Uruzgan, Afghanistan early in the evening, then returned after everyone went to bed and dropped their bombs on the residential area, instead of on the Taliban base two miles away. Mud houses were flattened and families destroyed. An initial bombing killed twenty and as some of the villagers were pulling their neighbors out of the rubble, more bombs fell and ten more people died. One of the villagers recalls: "We pulled the baby out, the others were buried in the rubble. Children were decapitated. There were bodies with no legs. We could do nothing. We just fled."

October 21

In 2001 at least twenty-three civilians, the majority of them young children, were killed when US bombs hit a remote Afghan village, Thori, located in the Urozgan province of Afghanistan.

In 2002 a 28 year old Palestinian male was kidnapped by Israeli settlers from Itmar, considered to be a haven for one of the most violent settlers on Palestinian territory. They kidnapped him while he was harvesting his family's olive groves alone. They ordered him down from the tree and began to viciously beat him by kicking him and punching him all over his body. The settlers then proceeded to bind his legs and arms and then took him to an undisclosed location where they continued to torture him by melting plastic pipes all over his body as he lay blindfolded and bound by hands and ankles. The Palestinian man escaped and was found by local fellow villagers who took him to the Nablus hospital known as Rafidya where he is in critical condition. He is suffering from burns and broken bones from his tragic ordeal with the settlers.

October 22

In 2001 at least twenty-five, and possibly as many as thirty-five, Afghan civilians died when US bombs and gunfire hit their village, Chowkar-Karez. Sardar Bibi, aged about forty, told Human Rights Watch, "I was wounded five days ago. It was at night, at about 11:30 or so, I don't know the exact time as we were sleeping. Suddenly the bombardment started. We went out of the house because we were afraid they would bombard the house. Then, we were running with our neighbors. Another bomb fell down. ...The plane was circling and also shooting. First, a plane came and dropped a bomb, but the other plane kept circling." Her husband, Daulat Khan, and all of her six children were killed during the attack. Her children included two one-and-one-half-year-old twins, Mohammed Yasin and Mohammed Yusof, fourteen-year-old Akhter Bibi, fifteen-year-old Najia, sixteen-year-old Maimana, and eighteen-year-old Mariam. Later, unidentified Pentagon officials told CNN that Chowkar-Karez was "a fully legitimate target" because it was a nest of Taliban and al Qaeda sympathizers. "The people there are dead because we wanted them dead," an official said.

October 25

In 1983 the United States invaded the island of Grenada, a tiny island nation with a population of 160,000 and a per capita income of \$390 per year, causing civilian deaths of up to 4,000.

In 1999 a US bomb hit a fully loaded city bus at Kabul Gate, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, incinerating 10-20 passengers.

October 26

In 2002 the US bombed Red Cross warehouses in Kabul, Afghanistan for the second time. The first time was ten days earlier on October 16.

October 27

In 1948 Al Dawayama Village in the district of Hebron was attacked by Israeli stormtroopers using automatic weapons. The village was completely destroyed, 200 were killed and the surviving villagers fled. "The children they killed by breaking their heads with sticks. There was not a house without dead... one commander ordered a sapper to put two old women in a certain house ... and to blow up the house with them. The sapper refused... the commander then ordered his men to put in the old women and the evil deed was done. One soldier boasted that he had raped a woman and then shot her..."

October 29

In 1956 the Suez War had just begun. Though Jordan was not involved in the war, a 5pm to dawn curfew was declared on all the Arab villages in the area close to the Jordanian border. However, many of the Arabs of Kfar Kassem were away from the village when the curfew was declared and were not informed about it. As they returned to the village after 5pm, they were lined up and shot dead by Israeli Border Police.

October 30

In 1948 the Carmeli company of the Israeli army occupied the Palestinian Arab village of Al-Hulah without resistance. The acting company commander was Shlomo Lehis, who later on became the director general of the Jewish Agency. Shlomo assembled the 70 Arabs who remained in the village in one of the squares. He and another officer killed them all, and then blew up the houses. Shlomo was tried in court and sentenced to prison, but before starting his prison sentence, he was pardoned by the head of State.

October 31

In 1948 Israeli troops surrounded the two towns of Ba'na and Dair al-Asad. The force's commander ordered the inhabitants of the two villages over loudspeakers to gather on the plain located between the two villages under guard by Israeli soldiers, then killed a group of young men in a way which was described by a UN observer as "brutal murder, since it took place without provocation or even an expression of anger on the part of the people."

In 2001 the US bombed a hospital in Kandahar, Afghanistan, killing 15 staff and patients and severely injuring 25 others.

November 3

In 1956 in the Khan Younis refugee camp in south Gaza Israeli soldiers massacred 250 Palestinian civilians. Source: UN.

November 10

In 2001 the villages of Shah Aqa and a neighboring village, in the poppy-growing Khakrez district, 70 kilometers northwest of Kandahar, Afghanistan were bombed by US warplanes, resulting in over 300 civilian casualties.

November 11

In 1975 the democratically elected, left-leaning government of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was toppled by a CIA-engineered coup. The CIA did this by giving an ultimatum to its Governor-General, John Kerr. Kerr, a longtime CIA collaborator, exercised his constitutional right to dissolve the Whitlam government. The Governor-General is a largely ceremonial position appointed by the Queen; the Prime Minister was democratically elected. The use of this archaic and never-used law stunned the nation.

November 12

In 1956 in the Khan Younis refugee camp in south Gaza, nine days after the first massacre, Israeli soldiers massacred a further 275 Palestinian civilians.

In 1991 on this and following days several hundred innocent East Timorese civilians were murdered in Santa Cruz by the brutal Indonesian troops which had illegally occupied their country for the last 21 years, with American, British and Australian support. Since 1975 the people of East Timor had been subjected to many massacres which the Indonesian military could deny. Again this time, their response was one of deceit and pretense that nothing had happened. Yet the world was deeply shocked by the images of the cold blooded murder that took place on that November day, shown on international television thanks to the courage of journalist Max Stahl.

The Indonesian authorities, forced to acknowledge that an 'incident' had taken place, tried to offer excuses devoid of credibility. Most foreign governments, keen on their lucrative business ties with Indonesia have so far tried to protect the Suharto dictatorship from criticism, despite ample evidence about the genocidal nature of the occupation of East Timor, and the clear signs of dissatisfaction of the oppressed people of Indonesia itself.

November 13

In 1966 a large Israeli force, including tanks and armored cars, attacked the village of al-Sammou' in Jordan, destroying 125 houses, a school and a clinic and 15 houses in another village, killing 18 and wounding 54.

November 16

In 1989 26 US trained and armed Salvadoran soldiers killed and mutilated eight people, including six Jesuit priests. The UN Truth Commission investigating the massacre confirmed that 19 of the 26 soldiers involved were trained in torture by the US "School of the Americas".

November 17

In 2001 US bomb strikes in Khanabad near Kunduz, Afghanistan, killed over 100 people. The town of Charikar, 60 kms north of Kabul, was attacked with bombs and missiles, killing two entire families, one of 16 members and the other of 14, living in the same house.

November 18

In 2001 US planes bombed the mountain village of Gluco, located on the Khyber Pass, killing seven villagers. The village was far away from any military facilities. A reporter for The Telegraph visited Gluco, noting "their wooden homes looked like piles of charred matchsticks. Injured mules lay braying in the road along the mountain pass that stank of sulfur and dead animals..."

November 26

In 2001 after heavy US bombing in the preceding days of the Shamshad village in Nangarhar province, one or three Afghan children were blown up and seven wounded by a cluster bomb as they were collecting firewood for burning at home. The United Nations mine-clearing officials in the region, noted that 10-30% of the U.S missiles and bombs dropped on Afghanistan did not explode, posing a lasting danger. Such munitions dropped in civilian areas poses a lasting danger. Fourteen thousand unexploded cluster bomblets littered the fields, streets and homes of Afghanistan by late November 2001.

November 29

In 1864 Colonel John Chivington led his troops, many of them drinking heavily, to Sand Creek and positioned them, along with their four howitzers, around the Indian village. An interpreter living in the village testified, "they were scalped, their brains knocked out; the men used their knives, ripped open women, clubbed little children, knocked them in the head with their rifle butts, beat their brains out, mutilated their bodies in every sense of the word." By the end of the one-sided battle as many as 200 Indians, more than half women and children, had been killed and mutilated.

In 2001 American B-52's dropped 25 JDAM MK-83 1000 pound bombs on the village of Kama Adu in Afghanistan killing a reported 200-300 villagers. 156 were confirmed killed by a village elder. Khan-e-Mairjudden was also bombed and the death toll was as high as 200 with over 150 confirmed dead. Another nearby village Zaner Khel was also bombed, hitting a minor Taliban leader's house, with a death toll confirmed of at least 60 dead.

December 1

In 2001 US aircraft dropped bombs on the village of Kama Ado in Afghanistan, reportedly killing over one hundred civilians. Surviving villagers maintained that no members of al Qaeda were ever there. The US completely denied the incident occurred.

December 2

In 1980 four American women were abducted, raped and killed by Salvadorian soldiers. These soldiers were trained in the United States and used guns made in the US, yet, nothing happened when these women – Ida, Mora, Dorothy and Jean – were killed.

December 3

In 1984 Union Carbide's pesticide-manufacturing plant in Bhopal, India leaked 42 tons of the deadly gas methyl isocyanate into a sleeping, impoverished community – killing more than 2,500 people in the first night of the disaster and injuring up to 200,000 others. Union Carbide has since abandoned its Bhopal plant which originally produced pesticides for use in cotton production and has refused to clean up the extensive pollution of water and soil it left behind. The International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal.

December 5

In 2003 the US bombed a compound near Gardez in Paktia province, Afghanistan and killed eight civilians, including six children.

December 6

In 1929 US Marines gunned down 264 protesting peasants in the town of Les Cayes, Haiti.

In 2003 US gunships attacked an Afghan village, Hutala, in Ghazni province, opening fire with rockets and bullets, and killed nine children.

December 7

In 1975, one day after Henry Kissinger and US President Gerald Ford gave the go-ahead, Indonesia invaded East Timor and systematically murdered about a third of its inhabitants over the next 17 years.

December 10

In 2001 two Israeli Apache gunships fired two missiles at a group of civilian cars stopped at a traffic light in the northwest of Hebron, apparently targeting Mohammed Ayoub Seder, an activist of the Islamic Jihad wanted by Israeli occupation forces. Two children, Burhan Mohammed Ibrahim El-Haimuni,³ and Shadi Ahmed 'Abdel Mu'ti 'Arafa,¹³ were killed and 14 people were injured. Seder survived as he was able to get out of the car.

December 11

In 1981 in El Mozote, the inhabitants of a small Salvadoran hamlet were systematically exterminated by the Atacatl Battalion, a US-trained counterinsurgency force. The Reagan administration, determined to preserve US support for El Salvador's war against leftist guerrillas, downplayed reports of this massacre. The White House ignored

and deflected reports that hundreds of unarmed women, children and men were shot, hung or beheaded.

December 12

In 1954 Israeli warplanes forced a Syrian Airways Dakota passenger craft carrying four passengers and five crewmen to land at Lydda airport inside Israel. The passengers were interrogated for two days before international protests, including strong complaints from Washington, finally convinced Israel to release the plane and its passengers.

December 13

In 1947 in the Palestinian village of Yehida a group of Jewish terrorists disguised as British soldiers arrived in four cars and sprayed the villagers with machine-gun fire. Only the arrival of real British troops saved the villagers, except for the seven who were murdered.

December 20

In 1989 the United States broke both international law and its own government policies by invading Panama in order to bring its President Manuel Noriega to justice for drug trafficking. It resulted in the loss of hundreds of Panamanian lives and damage to Panama City and El Chorillo.

In 2001 US warplanes bombed a convoy of tribal elders traveling to Kabul for the inauguration of President Karzai. Around 60 people are thought to have died in the attack, near the town of Khost, which turned up to 20 vehicles into flaming wrecks.

December 22

In 1998 seven members of a family were killed in the eastern Bekaa, Lebanon, during an Israeli air raid on a farm that was described by an Israeli spokesman as “the mistaken shelling of a building”. Three other civilians were wounded when four Israeli fighter-bombers fired a single missile each at 2:40 P.M. at the farm near Junta and Nabi Sheet worked by Mohammed Amin Othman, wounding him and killing his wife and six of his children. A spokesman for the UN force said that the house in which the family was living was hundreds of kilometers away from the Israeli border and no military actions have been taken in its vicinity.

December 28

In 1968 Israeli commando units transported by helicopter attacked the Beirut civil airport in Lebanon and destroyed 13 civilian aircraft, causing damage of 22 million pounds sterling.

December 29

In 1890 the US Government (with Hotchkiss guns throwing 2 pound explosive shells at 50 a minute – always developing new weapons!) massacred more than 300 men, women and children at Wounded Knee.

In 2001 US bombs, missiles and cannon fire slaughtered at least 207 Afghan people in the village of Niazi Qalaye in Afghanistan. Many of the dead and wounded were women and children who were murdered as they slept in their beds. Some were blown to pieces. One Western cameraman saw scraps of flesh, pools of blood and clumps of human hair.

December 31

In 1947 on New Year's Eve Jewish armed forces massacred 60 Arab villagers in Balad El-Sheikh with hand grenades and machine-guns.

The author of that website describes himself:

I created this non-commercial site as a counterweight to the received wisdom propagated by the mass media. This received wisdom includes the following:

- The US economy is improving. If we forget the rising unemployment, the falling stock market, the corporate accounting scandals, the falling dollar, the increasing foreign trade deficit and the national debt of over \$6 trillion.
- Yasser Arafat Hamas is solely responsible for the violence in the Middle East. If we ignore the nearly 40 years of Israeli illegal military occupation, the continued expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied Territories, the brutal suppression of the Palestinians and the theft of their land and water.
- George W. Bush is doing a great job as US president. To mention the fact that he was not even elected, that his "War on Terrorism" has not achieved anything tangible, that Enron financed his campaign, or that his reaction as Commander-in-Chief to the attacks of September 11 was to run away and hide, is anti-American.
- The attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon was an attack on American freedom and democracy. It had nothing to do with the US military and financial support for Israel's policies in the Middle East, the US-led sanctions against Iraq that have cost millions of lives, or the US support for evil dictators.
- Saddam Hussein was entirely responsible for the death of at least 500,000 children in Iraq. The destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, including water purification, and the sanctions preventing medicines and equipment necessary to rebuild the infrastructure from reaching Iraq and the statements by ex-UN coordinators and inspectors are not relevant.

"I have no political agenda – the purpose of this site is to educate and inform. If you find the articles of interest, that's fine. If not, that's okay as well. This site does not generate any income by advertising, referrals, requesting donations or whatever.

"On a personal note, I'm just an individual with no political affiliations, living in the Netherlands. I was born in the United Kingdom but prefer not to live in the "51st state", prefer wine to beer, rock music to classical music and make a living from mainframe computers when I'm not traveling." – Author of the foregoing list.

I believe the information speaks for itself and the bias is evident to a blind man. We should consider where we are and not how we got there. That doesn't mean that George Santayana was wrong, he may have been more right than he knew. In my view, our singular error has been trying to export Democracy. Everyone should mind his/her own business, including us.

Don't elect someone like me to a position of power, I'd start by giving the UN 20 minutes to get out of Dodge and then I'd extend the invitation to all sorts of liberal groups. For so very long, the Bill of Rights has been misinterpreted. Freedom of speech means you can say anything, regardless of how harmful. The Right to keep and bears arms now only refers to your left and right arms. The USA Patriot Act gutted several of the Amendments. I'm still trying to figure out when they repealed the 10th Amendment, States Rights.

The Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War (I know the War of Northern Aggression) were fought on American soil. None of the rest were and I say that because I don't believe we declared War against the Indians. We had a war with the Indians, but was it a declared war? Has it occurred to you what would happen if we quit importing more than we export? It would improve the balance of payments and several countries would declare war on us. Plus Wal-Mart would probably go broke.

Anyway, this chapter was a little time out for those of you who follow what I write. You Johnny Rebs who read my stuff know that I've never bad mouthed the South or the Confederacy. I have bad mouthed 'Reconstruction', another American shame. If you really think about it, Lincoln never wanted the Civil War. Most of the Southern Generals were educated at West Point and the remainder probably at VMI (established in 1839). A couple come to mind, Stonewall Jackson and John C. Breckinridge. A total of 7 Confederate Generals were graduates of VMI. George Patton graduated from both VMI and West Point.

I rather suspect that our displaced Briton doesn't much care for Tony Blair. If Wiki was still up, you could look for 'Coalition of the Willing' and find out we weren't alone in our fight against radical Islam. I suspect that the only reason we went 'over there' was because 'they' exported terrorism 'over here'. It wasn't bad enough we had our own homegrown terrorist, like Tim McVeigh. If you believe in conspiracy theories, you should realize that the main culprit is the media. I knew Steve Irwin (The Crocodile Hunter) was dead very shortly after it happened, so efficient is the media at spreading the news. I'm convinced they would do anything for a story. You gotta watch the government too, Ruby Ridge and Waco come to mind. The punishment wasn't proportional to the crime.

Survival Story – Chapter 21

I had to correct chapter 4 and replace milk jugs with 2 liter pop (soda) bottles. I added a caution about Tamiflu in response to what Russ said. My doctor won't prescribe the stuff. "TAMIFLU attacks the influenza virus and stops it from spreading inside your body." Dr. J says that that isn't the only thing it attacks. Whether or not its effective has been questioned by some. My response is, 'Any port in a storm'. Even with the new genetically engineered vaccine, it will take time to develop a vaccine against H5N1 if it mutates into a human transmitted form. The advantage is once the virus is mapped the new production method will result in the vaccine being produced quicker than the present method of using chicken eggs. H5N1 has been discovered in mallards on the US East Coast.

Your government is storing Tamiflu in case of an outbreak. Not enough for you or me, they're only storing enough for a very small percentage of the population. If you think you need to protect yourself against the avian virus, you'll need exam gloves, N-95 or N-100 masks, plenty of anti-bacterial soap and preparations. Why? Because the best protection against getting H5N1 will be ISOLATION. Let me repeat, 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness.'

Roche says:

Observed During Clinic Practice

The following adverse reactions have been identified during postmarketing use of Tamiflu. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to Tamiflu exposure.

Body as a whole: Swelling of the face or tongue, allergy, anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions.

Dermatologic: Dermatitis, rash, eczema, urticaria (hives), erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis.

Digestive: Hepatitis, liver function tests abnormal.

Cardiac: Arrhythmia.

Neurologic: Seizure, confusion.

Metabolic: Aggravation of diabetes.

Or, so it says at near the end of that long strip of paper that comes with the drug and is printed in about 2 point type that's hard to read with a magnifying glass.

Before I continue with the story part, let me say this: If you find an obvious error in the story, like the milk jugs thing, email me and I'll correct it. This is my best shot at helping folks; it doesn't matter that I can't leave the house. I don't want to put out bad information that could get anyone hurt or killed. You don't have to get KIO₃ from Gonzales, Texas if you don't want to; Frugal sells it and so does MedicalCorps.org

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"Are you any good with that rifle, Aaron?"

"Grandpa, I can hit what I shoot at."

"Did your Dad teach you?"

"No, Uncle Derek did. How come he had to leave?"

"It was his duty, Aaron. In this country, our militia is mainly composed of the National Guard. Some states have State Defense Forces too. The difference is that with the permission of the Governor, the National Guard can be federalized and work for the federal government while State Defense Forces can't. Have you ever heard the term Aztlán?"

"What's that mean?"

"Much of the southwestern US used to be part of Mexico. Aztlán is the legendary ancestral home of the Nahuatl peoples. 'Azteca' is the Nahuatl word for 'people from Aztlán'. Due to the association of Aztlán with Mexican national identity and an indeterminate northern location, the name Aztlán was taken up by some Chicano activists of the 1960s and 1970s to refer to the area of the Southwestern US ceded to the US after the Mexican-American War. In fiction, Aztlán has been used as the name of speculative fictional future-states that emerge in the southwest US and/or Mexico after the central US government suffers collapse or major setback."

"Like now?"

"Exactly like now. Do you know anything about Socialism or Marxism?"

"I've heard the terms, but we haven't studied it in school."

"Socialism refers to a broad array of doctrines or political movements that envisage a socio-economic system in which property and the distribution of wealth are subject to social control. As an economic system, socialism is usually associated with state or collective ownership of the means of production. This control may be either direct, exercised through popular collectives such as workers' councils, or it may be indirect, exercised on behalf of the people by the state."

“The modern socialist movement had its origin largely in the working class movement of the late-19th century. In this period, the term “socialism” was first used in connection with European social critics who condemned capitalism and private property. For Karl Marx, who helped establish and define the modern socialist movement, socialism implied the abolition of money, markets, capital, and labor as a commodity.

“Marx was a German living in England. Marx addressed a wide range of issues; he is most famous for his analysis of history in terms of class struggles, summed up in the opening line of the introduction to the Communist Manifesto: *The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.*

“The Bolshevik faction of the Marxist Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party led by Vladimir Lenin seized power in Russia in 1917 in an event known as the October Revolution. Shortly after seizing power, the party changed its name to the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) in 1918 and was generally known as the Communist Party after that point.”

“What does Russia have to do with Mexico?”

“It’s sort of complicated; do you think you can follow me?”

“I can try.”

“Ok. The breeding ground for socialism is poverty. For many years, this country tried to keep Communism and Socialism out of the Western Hemisphere. In so doing, we installed a bunch of petty dictators in several Central and South American countries. Eventually, the people of those counties revolted and formed new governments. The continent, like many others, became a battlefield of the Cold War in the late 20th century. The government of Chile was overthrown in the early 1970s, as a late development of the Monroe Doctrine.

“Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Peru suffered from internal conflicts. Other revolutions and military dictatorships have been common, but starting in the 1980s a wave of democratization came through the continent and democratic rule is widespread now. Allegations of corruption remain common, and several nations have seen crises which have forced the resignation of their presidents, although normal civilian succession has continued. In recent years South American governments have drifted to the left, with socialist leaders being elected in Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela, and a leftist president in Argentina and Uruguay.

“While the political violence of the 1970s and 80s has subsided significantly, Central America still faces serious challenges in the consolidation of democracy, protection of human rights, and in ensuring accountability and transparency in government. Peace accords in El Salvador and Guatemala and the end of the Contra War in Nicaragua signaled the beginning of a new era in Central America. However, the implementation of reforms has been incomplete and many democratic institutions remain weak. Increasing

political violence in Guatemala, in particular, is a grave reminder that the conflict of previous decades has not been laid to rest in Central America.

“The economic and social conditions that lay at the root of armed conflict still persist. Of the eight poorest countries in Latin America, the Central American States of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador comprise one half, with Honduras and Nicaragua experiencing the highest rates of poverty. Youth gang violence is a serious problem in Central America. While rooted in the specific realities of the countries in the region, it is also linked to the problems of Central American immigrant communities in North America, and to the growing global phenomenon of youth gangs.

“Estimates indicate that there are some 25,000 to 300,000 active gang members in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, which have extended their sphere of influence beyond their traditional urban areas to some of the most remote corners of Central America. The Central American gang phenomenon is also growing in North America, with Central American gangs now active in various parts of the United States including Los Angeles, the Washington, DC metropolitan area, Chicago, Long Island, Houston, Durham, Omaha and Anchorage, as well as throughout urban and rural areas in Mexico and Canada.”

“Thanks for the history lesson, but what does that have to do with anything?”

“Mexico had an election in 2006. The election was highly contested and the socialist said he’d never admit defeat. It may be the basis for another Mexican Revolution; they have a lot of those you know.”

“So what?”

“Go back to what I said about the nation of Aztlán. Aztlán has been used as the name of speculative fictional future-states that emerge in the southwest US and/or Mexico after the central US government suffers collapse or major setback.”

“Like now?”

“Exactly like now.”

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Radiation decays, another fact. With the passage of time, much of the southern part of the US in the aftermath of WW III would be open to conquest by a determined enemy. I wonder if Mexico raised a large Army and issued them the FX-05s? If the socialist, Lopez Obrador finally gained power, the Nation of Aztlán could become a reality. They’d probably come in through California, California won’t allow its citizenry to have firearms, legally. That’s not to say that there aren’t any, nor to say that those that have them wouldn’t resist. I have no intentions of learning Spanish! I know all of the Spanish I need to know and the expression is offensive.

“Switzerland has one of the highest rates of political participation of any advanced democracy. It also scores impressively in international surveys that measure levels of voter satisfaction. Most observers acknowledge that this is a direct result of the country’s system of direct democracy.

“Swiss citizens have the right to call a referendum on any subject they want as long they can gather the required number of signatures. At a national level this is set at just under 1.5 per cent of the electorate – about 100,000 people. If enough names are collected within an 18-month period, then a proposal can be put on the ballot paper and voted on by the general public. If it is passed, it becomes law. A study highlighted in Richard Layard’s book, *Happiness*, even showed that Swiss in cantons with the most direct democracy were happier than those with more limited rights.

“I was brought up to value Britain’s democratic tradition and to think of it as a cornerstone of national stability. Sadly it is clear that most citizens no longer feel any real sense of ownership of our democracy. Politics is something that happens to them and around them, not something they feel that they can control in any meaningful way. And it is not apathy but disempowerment that is the root cause of the problem – just look at how many join single-issue groups or were prepared to march for the countryside or against the Iraq war.”

It would be easy to substitute ‘the United States’ for Britain in the article from the London Times.

It used to be that disasters happened but were few and far between. That somehow changed and perhaps technology is to blame. It’s ok to say that, machines don’t have feelings and won’t cry if you badmouth them. Over the years, I’ve called my computers every name in the book and they’ve simply ignored me. One of the disasters ABC highlighted in their show, *The Last Days on Earth*, which ran on Wednesday, 30Aug06, was the scenario taken from the Terminator series of movies, could machines develop intelligence and take us over? Does the term artificial intelligence ring a bell?

Hollywood did a few films on the subject like *Colossus: The Forbin Project* and *War Games*. Perhaps *Fail Safe* belongs in that category. There were probably more, Hollywood tends to beat a subject to death. When they got hooked on asteroids, they made *Deep Impact* and *Armageddon*. One of the most frightening movies ever filmed was *The Day After*, a made for TV film. ABC did that one too.

Explaining about Aztlán to Aaron got me to thinking about a lot of things. Carl Sagan was right about nuclear winter and nuclear summer. Not every nuclear weapon in the arsenals had been used or it could have been the end of mankind. How many of us would develop cancer in coming years? When you’re 65, I guess it doesn’t really matter. What kind of diseases had emerged in the aftermath? Did my antibiotic guides give me enough information to treat whatever showed up? Would I recognize it for what it was? You couldn’t just give a person one of each pill, tetracycline cancels out penicillin.

Was there a scourge of BGs zeroing in on the little towns like Flippin and Gassville? When we got the M1114s, I thought we had it made. Did more politicians survive than we knew about? I'll take the BGs, thank you. I had rarely met a politician I couldn't learn to dislike. Many of them were lawyers, you know. Lawyers should practice law; instead they become politicians and occasionally reporters. Derek had sighted in the Tac-50 for, gasp, 600 yards and at 42 power I could see that far.

To enable the shooter to engage targets out to 2,500 meters, Barrett has developed an integrated ballistic computer/ riflescope system known as BORS (Barrett Optical Ranging System). Historically, long range shooting has been a highly technical endeavor in which the shooter had to make a number of calculations before the trigger could be pulled. These calculations included range to the target, the effects of barometric pressure and air temperature, and the type of ammunition loaded. BORS automatically calculates all these variables, and adjusts the sight reticule accordingly.

All the shooter needs to do is enter the ammunition type into the BORS (using touch pads on the BORS console) determine the range (either mechanically or through a LRF) and crank the elevation knob on the scope until the proper range appears in the BORS display. The BORS automatically determines the temperature and barometric pressure, as well as the cant or tilt in the rifle itself, and incorporates these enviro-physical factors into its calculations. Once the proper range has been entered, the shooter need only put the target under the crosshairs and pull the trigger.

The Block I version of BORS was available now, Block II (which included an integrated range finder) became available in '05 with Block III (new optics, Night Vision capable, wide angle, stabilized image) became available in '06. Lastly, Barrett believes that the BORS system will be completely compatible with the 25mm air-bursting grenade featured on the OICW and that similar ammunition could be developed for use in the M-109, as well as adapting the BORS to the OICW, to provide ranging and environmental information to the 25mm grenade launcher.

The centerpiece of the M-109 system is the 25mm HEDP ammunition it fires. A scaled down derivative of the low velocity 30mm HEDP M789 ammunition fired by the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, the MX-109's 25mm ammunition has been judged to be 2.5 times more effective at destroying targets than a .50 caliber armor-piercing round. It is expected that this ammunition can penetrate nearly 40mm (an inch and a half) of armor plating at 500 meters, or blast open doors from around the corner. In other words, it gives the Soldier breaching capability on fortified positions, while minimizing exposure to enemy fire, thanks to its effectiveness at greater distances. Also in the works are a number of specialized rounds, ranging from solid core AP ammunition to non-lethal/ crowd control munitions utilizing inert rubber balls, and RC agents.

M1049 Armor Piercing improvements include removal of the nose fuze for greater penetration. The base fuze utilizes existing HE safe and arm. It has reduced parasitic weight, added a self-destruct feature. It provides basis for high explosive dual purpose (HEDP)

airbursting capability. I'm confused, I'll stick with the AP because I know it works, Derek said so. The word is Barrett was working on it.

o

Like I'd ever need to shoot the Tac-50, my 'Barrett'. Well, never say never. I saw an O'Reilly show one night where he had a fella named Garcia on. Mr. Garcia was saying that the term illegal alien was akin to the 'N' word. O'Reilly was saying that according to the law, people who were here illegally were in fact illegal aliens. You've been warned, use of the term illegal alien may not be used when you're referring to illegal aliens, it's discriminatory. You'll end up with the EEOC on your back, unless you hire them and then it will be USCIS (INS – now called the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, a part of Homeland Insecurity).

Oh, it gets worse, created in March 2003, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative branch of the Department of Homeland Insecurity (DHI). The agency was created after 9/11, by combining the law enforcement arms of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the former US Customs Service, to more effectively enforce our immigration and customs laws and to protect the United States against terrorist attacks. ICE does this by targeting illegal immigrants: the people, money and materials that support terrorism and other criminal activities. ICE is a key component of the DHI "layered defense" approach to protecting the nation. Did you see that? They used the term illegal immigrants! Worse, they couldn't do the job and had to bring in the National Guard.

All the government accomplished when they created the Department of Homeland Insecurity is to mess up what we already had and add another layer of bureaucracy. That came before Congress created the office of Director of National Intelligence (DNI). Despite having no prior experience in the intelligence community, President Bush named Ambassador Negroponte as the first Director of National Intelligence in 2005. Prior to this appointment, Negroponte served as the US Ambassador to Iraq. I don't know him, but his credentials don't impress me. If he had been on the job, those terrorists wouldn't have exploded 24 nukes. I love to blame him for the earthquake, too, but maybe that's going too far.

We bagged the spuds and put them in the basement. The only time I went down there now was when Damon came by to service the generator. I'm sure glad someone brought up Onan earlier; I might have bought the Generac. Kohler, Onan or Cummins was ok, as long as they had the 1,800rpm engine. This one had given good service but I was told they can only run from 13k to 15k hours before they need to be rebuilt. They never explained what they meant by that, it could mean the engine needed to be rebuilt or maybe the alternator. If I had to guess, the alternator might need new bearings and the engine totally rebuilt.

Years before, my brother worked for Winpower in Newton, Iowa. Winpower sold generators and he once bragged that they had a generator that ran 179 hours non-stop. At the

time I was impressed, that was a little over a week. I didn't know much about the company but I later learned that the headquarters was in Minnesota and they had been in the generator business since before WW II. That was around 1965, more than 43 years ago.

Roger thought I was a crackpot because I was one of the early 'survivalists'. That predated my being prepared, except in the gun department. The guns came in 1979 through 1989 and then my boozing got so bad I had to sell them to pay the bills I couldn't pay because of the money I was drinking up. Back when I could have had a HK91 for under a grand, I didn't spend the money and then came FOPA.

Damon helped me out with the things I couldn't handle and it was generally Aaron when I had the 'day watch'. He'd watch and I'd daydream, getting on the radio whenever he saw something or someone he didn't recognize. I finally decided that I should teach him how to handle my firearms, starting with the M1A. Aaron is a good sized kid so I figured if he could handle the M1A, I might see what I could do to find something in 7.62x51mm for him. He had the Browning and the Bushmaster but neither was heavy enough.

I don't believe there is any firearm that will produce a guaranteed one shot kill. A full load of buckshot probably comes as close as anything but bullets don't always expand like they're supposed to. It depends in part on where they hit on a person's body. Even a heart shot might not prevent them from returning fire. That's why there's that thing they call the failure to stop drill, two in the torso and one in the head. You could reduce your ammo consumption by $\frac{2}{3}$ if you shot them in the head to begin with, but that's a smaller target.

"Grandpa, look!"

"Son of gun, it's Derek. Do you suppose he saved the world?"

"Is he coming here?"

"Not likely, he'll stop by home for a while, we might see him tomorrow."

"No, he's coming here."

"He should know better than that, Aaron, Mary will kill him."

"Hey kid."

"Hi, Dad."

"What are you doing home?"

"We got the weekend off. We're being redeployed."

“No, out to your old neighborhood. You’ll recognize the other boxes.”

“I thought you went to Pine Bluff. Aaron, would you unload the boxes? Please be careful.”

“I did, but we weren’t there very long. NCA ordered 100,000 troops to the Mexican border. I’ve been moved to a different unit and I got my own M1A2SEP. They added a steel-grilled hoop skirt to protect us against the Russian anti-tank missiles, the Metis and the Kornet. Is Aaron done, I’ve got to go?”

“He’s done. Will you be back?”

“No, I’m spending some quality time with my family then leaving. Enjoy playing with your new boy toys.”

◦

Where did he find an M-79 Thumper? I’d need another scabbard for my tactical wheelchair. Aside from the Thumper, it was just more of things we already had. It was all USGI but wasn’t intended for the general public. There was more Raufoss, I’d only fired a few rounds at the range, an assortment of 40mm grenades, some of those sticks of C-4, 6 of the Claymore sets, and a note that said, *Don’t blow yourself up*.

I send Aaron running after his Dad. He came back and I gave Damon the M-79 and the grenades, he like shotguns and this thing was just an oversized shotgun. I told him to give the local cops the Claymores and tell them to use them on the roadblocks, if they wanted to. Remember Harry Chapin’s *Cat’s in the Cradle*? It is the story of a father who is too busy with work and related obligations to have enough time to spend with his son, though in the chorus the son comments to his dad “I’m gonna be like you”. Later, after his son grows up and he now wants to spend time with him, the son now finds excuses to avoid spending time with his father. Too late, the father discovers his son has grown up just to be like him.

Is that a universal truth that applies to all families or did it just apply to mine? Derek had my firearms interest and was more of a survivalist than Damon. He wasn’t laid back like his older brother. On the other hand, Damon had quite a load to bear and worked hard to do the things he was capable of doing. Like Chapin’s character, I wasn’t there either; she got to raise the kids. I did what I could, but I wasn’t there. Like their father, the boys leaned toward the conservative, Derek more so than Damon. Back when we could still watch TV, Derek watched Fox News.

He left late Sunday night, Mary took him somewhere and Amy and Lorrie watched the kids. The border with Mexico is very long, 3,141km, ~1,952 miles. He had never said where he’d be on the border, it could be anywhere from Texas to California. Oh wait, he did say that he was going to my old neighborhood, which must mean that he went to California. In the US, Texas has the longest stretch of the border of any state, while Cal-

ifornia has the shortest. In Mexico, Chihuahua has the longest border, while Nuevo León has the shortest.

The boundary follows the middle of the Rio Grande – according to the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo between the two nations, “along the deepest channel” – from its mouth on the Gulf of Mexico a distance of 1,254 miles (2,019 km) to a point just upstream of El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. It then follows an alignment westward overland and marked by monuments a distance of 533 miles (858 km) to the Colorado River. Thence it follows the middle of that river northward a distance of 24 miles (38 km), and then it again follows an alignment westward overland and marked by monuments a distance of 141 miles (226 km) to the Pacific Ocean.

“Dammit.”

“Grandpa, you shouldn’t swear.”

“Sorry, Aaron. I’ll do better someday.”

“When?”

“When I die.”

“Don’t talk like that. What were you cussing about?”

“I was just thinking about your uncle Derek going out to California. I thought my worrying was over when he got back from Iraq. Aaron, I’m just too old to deal with it. He spent 13 months in Korea when he was on active duty. Then he spent 6 months in Kosovo and a year in Iraq. Back in the fall of ‘06, Dr. J got concerned about my health and I had to undergo an ultrasound examination of my blood vessels. I never liked him doing exams because they always found something else. Over the years since ‘03, I began to lose cognitive function, very slowly, but constantly. Lost hearing in my right ear and I started to talk like I had a mouthful of oatmeal. Don’t let your kids to grow up to be soldiers.”

“Wasn’t there a song like that?”

Survival Story – Chapter 22

“Sorta, the song was, *Mama Don't Let Your Boys Grow Up To Be Cowboys*. It came out in '78 on the album *Waylon and Willie*. Willie is probably still around, but, Jennings suffered from diabetes. On 19Dec01, his left foot was amputated in a Phoenix hospital due to infection arising from his diabetes. Then, on 13Feb02, Jennings died in his sleep of diabetic complications at age 64 in Chandler.”

“Uncle Derek will be ok.”

“Is that a promise?”

“No grandpa, it's an educated guess. He's really smart and won't get anywhere near trouble.”

“Aaron, it doesn't work that way. If we are really going to have trouble with Mexico, I don't know if those extra skirts the put on the Abrams tanks will do much good. That Kornet is very similar to our TOW missile and it has a 2 mile range. I don't have any data on how many tanks Mexico has either.”

“They don't have any, Uncle Derek told me.”

“Maybe not, but they could have anti-tank missiles. The Mexican Army might be a joke, Aaron, but I'm not laughing. I guess it all depends on how we approach it. If we did it right, we'd kick butt and take names. We'd do it the same way we did it twice in Iraq, come in with the Air Force and then the ground forces. You can't win a war without using infantry. I think it's just a faction of the people of Mexico who want to reclaim the territory anyway. The Mexicans have never been able to defeat us.”

“What about the Alamo?”

“What about it? Less than 200 men held up Santa Anna's entire force for 13 days. A month later at the Battle of San Jacinto, we defeated him. Don't get me started on the Battle of the Alamo, I'm a Marty Robbins fan.”

“Grandpa look.”

“What do you see?”

“3, no 4, trucks at the west barricade. Wait, they're shooting.”

“Gassville police, this is TOM on the over watch, you have trouble at the west barricade. I say again, trouble on the west barricade. Shots fired.”

“Aaron, help me get the .50 caliber set into the rest. Grab a magazine with the red tape on it, that's the Raufoss.”

“This is heavy.”

“I know, I can’t even pick it up. Use the laser rangefinder and give me the range to the first BGs pickup.”

“1,375 meters.”

“Got it. Plug your ears.”

Craaack.

“You hit, it, you hit it, shoot the second one.”

Craaack.

“You missed.”

Craaack.

“You hit it now, stop shooting, here come the cops.”

“I know, I can see them in the scope. Did I destroy those vehicles?”

“I don’t think so. You punched holes in them.”

“What about the BGs?”

“There’s a couple of them that aren’t moving.”

“Huh, I don’t feel like vomiting. Maybe shooting distant targets is like being a bomber pilot.”

o

I wasn’t long before the same cop as before showed up.

“Did you shoot those trucks?”

“Yep. 2 out 3 ain’t bad.”

“What kind of ammo were you using? Those guys were full of holes.”

“Raufoss. It’s military ammo my kid got.”

“Is it explosive?”

“It’s HEIAP.”

“What’s that in that scabbard?”

“M1A Super Match with a Nightforce scope and a UNS.”

“You carry all of those guns with you?”

“Yeah, I never know what I might need.”

“What’s their condition?”

“They’re in perfect condition. Oh, do you mean Condition 0, 1, etc.?”

“Yes.”

“The pistol is Condition 1. Everything else is Condition 3 or 4.”

“How old are you?”

“65, what does that have to do with anything?”

“This boy a relative?”

“My grandson, Aaron.”

“How old is he?”

“15.”

“You know the law about minors with guns?”

“I bought the guns and his father paid for them. He’s been trained in proper handling, etc.”

“I’m going to have to take your rifle in.”

“Mister, are you familiar with the expression, my cold, dead hands?”

“You’re one of those?”

“Patron member. Besides, what’s to compare, the Raufoss is HEIAP and you won’t find anything to test.”

“You’re right, forget it. You’re Tom, right?”

“Gary D. Ott. The Tom comes from my nickname, Tired Old Man.”

“Did you move your entire family to Gassville?”

“Derek lived here, we came after the earthquake. The other kids showed up later, but I think they’re going to stay.”

“Yankees?”

“Not now.”

“Damn Yankees.”

“My kid is good enough to serve in the Arkansas National Guard. Don’t be talking down Yankees, nobody chooses where they’re born. I’m an American, period. You don’t see any Yankee flag on the pole, do you? Those people at the roadblock weren’t after me. Besides, at this range, I was just shooting the vehicles to try and disable them until you could send more people to that road block. God Bless the Confederate States of America, God Bless Robert E. Lee. What kind of damn fool Yankee would say that?”

“I don’t know, but that somehow seems familiar.”

The idiot, all I did was paraphrase the line out of *Little Big Man*. I didn’t get the cops name, Bubba, do you suppose?

◦

The 911 Commission Report

The report makes for interesting reading. The part about bin Laden and our apparent incompetence in doing anything about him during President Clinton’s Administration is most revealing. Clinton authorized all sort of plans but the powers to be couldn’t seem to get them implemented. The first part of the report describes in horrific detail what happened on 9/11. The bottom line was, we didn’t have our shit together. Never mind the intelligence failures, if any, we weren’t prepared for what happened. There were too many layers of bureaucracy, within all of the agencies involved and a general lack of coordination. I read parts while Aaron was watching the approaches to Gassville.

As near as I could tell, 40% of the personnel sent to the border were active duty personnel and the other 60% were Reserves or National Guard. Cities like ours that didn’t get hit in the attacks simply got no attention. I somehow think that was better than having a Company of National Guard in our faces. A couple of squads would have been nice, divided up among the three towns, probably one in Mountain Home and a second divided between Flipping and Gassville.

In *The Armed Citizen*, the NRA claims that sometimes the mere presence of a firearm without a shot being fired prevents crime in many instances. I can only guess that when the Mexican Army ran up against more than 200 soldiers, they backed down. At San Jacinto, with his army of 800 men, Houston decided to attack Santa Anna, whose troops numbered about 1,400. The Texan army moved quickly and silently across the high-grass plain, then when they were only a few dozen yards away, charged Santa Anna's camp shouting "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad", only stopping a few yards from the Mexicans to open fire. Confusion ensued. Santa Anna's army were professional soldiers, but were trained to fight in ranks, exchanging volleys with their opponents; also ill-prepared and unarmed, at the time of the attack. In 20 minutes, the Texan army had won, killing over 600 Mexican soldiers and taking 730 prisoners.

"Measured by its results, San Jacinto was one of the decisive battles of the world. The freedom of Texas from Mexico won here led to annexation and to the Mexican War, resulting in the acquisition by the United States of the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and Oklahoma. Almost one-third of the present area of the American Nation, nearly a million square miles of territory, changed sovereignty." – San Jacinto Monument

With that in mind, you soon realize why Mexico wanted to take back the territory it lost, a million square miles. The area of present day Mexico is 761,605 square miles. The area of the US is 3,718,695 square miles. So, do you know what the first European settlement in America was? Jamestown (1607) – bzzzz; St. Augustine, Florida (1565). As new territories were being incorporated, the nation was divided over the issue of states' rights, the role of the federal government, and, by the 1820s, the expansion of slavery. One out of three ain't good. The problem is the feds forgot about the 10th Amendment and are power hungry. I can prove that if you want, with the following references: National Firearms Act, Gun Control Act and Firearms Owners Protection Act.

Confederate President Jefferson Davis made no explicit reference to slavery at all in his inaugural address. The Confederate States Constitution provides much insight into the motivations for secession from the Union. While much of it was a word-for-word duplicate of the US Constitution, it reflected a stronger philosophy of states' rights, curtailing the power of the central authority, and also contained explicit protection of the institution of slavery, though international slave trading was prohibited. Two out of three ain't bad. I shoulda told that cop that.

o

Word came on the radio that the Mexican Army had withdrawn. This was good, because according to the Rule of 3s, if you had 4, that meant you were in for 9. Out here in the rural part of the country, really a major recreation area, there weren't many things that BGs could use. Ranger made boats in Flippin, Mar Bax Shirt Factory was in Gassville and Mountain Home was the county seat for Baxter County and most of all, a retirement community. We probably would have located in Mountain Home if there hadn't been a very affordable lot available in Gassville, the Marion county seat.

Someone might be looking for drugs in Mountain Home, but who would want to steal shirts? Stealing a boat isn't as easy as it sounds, you'd need a trailer, you'd need to get past the Flippin Police Department and you'd have break into the place that Ranger stored those bass boats. Then, you'd need to steal the motor. Hell, it would be easier to rob a bank and buy the boat.

Piece by piece this area of the country was coming back together. The towns got water and sewer restored first. The phone system was ready to go, waiting only for the restoration of electricity by Entergy. When the day came in September, I finally shut down the generator and ask Joe to look it over.

"Whatever it needs, check it out thoroughly in case we need to use it again for an extended period. I don't know the hours on it, but there's a log in the utility room in the basement. I'm not saying to spare no expense, we may not have the money, but if you can, get it back up to 15,000 hours of running capacity."

"Are you sure you want to do that Gary?"

"Want to? Not particularly. Need to? I don't really know. However, it's better to be safe than sorry. We got some money in one of our bank accounts now and Sharon told me we were getting back to our condition before all the crap happened."

"I heard TV is coming back soon."

"Really? We may not get much national programming, most of that comes from satellites. I need to get with Art and see if I can get another big propane tank. I'm glad now we didn't buy one of those big screen TVs."

"What's your opinion on how this will all work out?"

"Joe, anything I said would be a guess; hell it wouldn't even be an informed guess. At my age, and given my medical issues, I may not live to see it. Have you thought how much energy we've directed at the earth's crust with all of those nuclear weapons? We could have an increase in volcanism, more earthquakes, who knows? I haven't heard anything on the radio that suggests that the war didn't damage the ozone layer. It was recovering before the war but I honestly don't know now."

"If you had to guess?"

"I can give you a list of natural disasters and manmade disasters; you can take your pick. Both Long Valley and Yellowstone could erupt and that could be an Extinction Level Event. We could have a significant period of cooling and another ice age or little ice age. There are something like 30 to 40 Supervolcanoes spread around the planet. There was some talk about a mega tsunami caused by a land collapse on La Palma in the Canary Islands. They can't predict earthquakes and there are several faults in the

US. On the other hand, we could go years with nothing more significant than an occasion tornado or hurricane.”

“Then what are you going to do?”

“Prepare for the worst and hope for the best.”

“Give me a week on the generator and I’ll have it good as new.”

“Great, thanks.”

◦

“When did you get back?”

“Late last night. They backed off once their reconnaissance showed we could defeat them in a few weeks. What’s new with you?”

“Just working on getting everything restored to what we had before the war. I murdered pair of pickups last week. They came up to the road block on the Westside of town and Aaron spotted them. I called the cops and Aaron helped me get the .50 cal setup. I just slowed them down until the cops showed up. Later a cop came and was snooping around about my rifle and a few things. Sucker called me a damned Yankee. How long do you have off before you have to go back?”

“Maybe a week or 10 days, we’re waiting on orders.”

“We have electricity and the phone back.”

“Mary told me.”

“I’d like to be able to get more ammo. No one has any available.”

“Why?”

“Been teaching Aaron to shoot the M1A. Burned up about half of what I have. Cop wanted to seize my rifle. I muttered something about my cold, dead hands. He left.”

“When my enlistment is up, I may not reenlist.”

“Be still my heart. Really? Jeez, I hope so. I don’t know what the world is coming to. May end up being the radical Muslims against the rest of the world. I’ve been saying that the 4 Horsemen are riding and I could be right; I sure wish I wasn’t.”

◦

A plague of modern times
By Tsothe Bakuria

It strikes without warning – the guilty and the innocent. It appears in every country, cruel and devastating, destroying families. Terrorism is faceless. It kills without discretion. The strong, the weak, the rich and poor. It's the 21st century's deadliest disease. And there is no cure, no antidote, no immunization.

No one, in any country, is safe. As long as there are people willing to strap bombs around their waist and make videos proclaiming their wish to be surrounded by virgins, the innocent will die: children, women, the old, the infirm. Rarely do terrorists target the guilty. It's one bomb fits all.

Capture of would-be airline bombers in London strikes home to those of us familiar with their tactics. I am a citizen of Georgia. Russia, my neighbor, has witnessed firsthand the ugly face of terrorism, the widows and orphans. My other neighbors, Turkey and Israel, are deeply familiar with terrorists. And it's not only young men: Family members – even women and children – are routinely recruited.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States vowed to defend itself, and President Bush made it his first priority. I applaud Israel for its show of force against Hezbollah. The Jewish state has a right to defend itself and has gone not one day without some threat or other. Who won and who lost is beside the point. In the end, everyone loses.

Israel has shielded other countries from aggression. The Israelis have taken the brunt of terrorism. Everyone understands Palestine has the right to establish an independent state. Their leaders are quite capable of doing so. But this issue involves radical factions like Iran who want to wipe Israel off the face of the map.

Where did all this hatred come from? What deep resentment gives life to those who only honor maiming and murder? Yes, it's murder, coldblooded. Terrorism is not a tactic of war; it is a single act, by a single person, aimed at causing the utmost confusion and terror in the hearts of the innocent.

So many children died in this latest skirmish, that it brought tears to many eyes. This is a barbaric punishment not worthy of any civilized society. Terrorism is the worst form of cowardice. There is no glory, and no God associated with such cynical disregard for human life. Former President Clinton, told Osama bin Laden had been located in an Afghan village, considered taking him out. He was stopped by the fact there were innocent women and children in the vicinity. He refused to give the order. Do these children realize their lives were saved by the decision?

My wife and I just saw World Trade Center. It is a sober account of the devastation and human loss that occurred on American soil. But it is not an isolated event. You could

make a 24-hour film of all the terrorist acts around the world during the last 10 years and still not have the whole picture.

Here I am, in America, with security tightened and everyone on alert. At Penn Station in New York, the other day, I was happy to hear an announcement warning commuters to be on alert, to report anything unusual. America has lost its innocence.

How brave are the citizens of other countries: Russia, Israel, Turkey, Iraq, all of them potential victims, potential bodies, in this bloody year. Diplomacy has failed.

We need to readdress our thinking and attack those who would attack us. George Bush is serious about battling terrorism, and he should use every means possible to wipe out the threat. That includes monitoring phone calls, searching airline passengers, and seizing expensive perfumes from some outraged American housewives who value their cosmetics more than their lives, and the lives of others. I just want to scream, wake up.

We in America are freshmen on terrorism. We need to graduate, grow up and face the threat as have other countries. Though we cannot change foreign cultures, we can begin to educate children around the world who are in danger of being brainwashed into thinking death will ensure their heavenly afterlife. It is imperative that civilized societies band together in this mission.

We may not be able to save young men and women already enlisted in these organizations, but we can rescue their children and grandchildren by education and literacy. The next generation simply cannot afford to be inflicted with this disease, which like the Plague, is not hereditary.

That is one way to avoid another September 11 and another sobering Hollywood film.

Tsotne Bakuria is a former member of Parliament of the Republic of Georgia. He is writing a book on post-Soviet emerging democracies.

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Terrorism was the root cause of WW III. Like Israel, we had a right to defend ourselves. I suppose the average man on the street could have told you how we'd respond, nuke 'em and let God sort 'em out. Most of us saw it coming; the only limitation on our preps was how much money we could spend. That makes it difficult to sort the good from the bad, if we hadn't had that earthquake and gotten out of Palmdale, we wouldn't have been as well prepared. I guess that was what happened to Ron when he got cancer, it saved his life.

When I think about it, building the basement wasn't that big of a deal, we just dug deeper, topped it and then put in those risers like Gil had done back in Davenport. I don't have many original ideas, but even now, my memory isn't half bad. Gil only used 3' ris-

ers, not enough in Iowa, the ground freezes deeper than that. I stored that and used it when I had the chance.

Experience is the greatest teacher, not any schools you attend. The basement walls were made 10" thick to accommodate the blast door and the lid the 12" thick to support the soil. It was maybe 2-3 loads of extra concrete, in retrospect, well worth the cost. The 30kw generator was big enough and kept the batteries charged. Having what amounted to a big unfinished room worked in our favor, we could accommodate more people.

I never explained how Joe came to be among us, did I? You see, Bob worked for the firm that built the basement and Joe serviced our car. He was a very good mechanic and he and I got to visiting one day when I rode along with Sharon to have a tune up. He had one of those Confederate Naval Jacks hanging in his shop and I asked him if he was Bo Duke. He laughed and said he didn't think you could find many '69 Dodge Chargers anymore; they'd used them up making the TV show. He was working these days trying to convert some of the cars around town to run on E85.

o

When the phones were finally up and long distance restored, I called Iowa.

"Matt, Gary Ott. No, the whole family is in Gassville, Arkansas now. Can you tell me how much money is in the account? I see. How much of the trust is left? That's not as bad as I thought; you had a lot of Iowa investments? Derek works for the post office and if he wasn't on active duty, they wouldn't have any income. Damon is disabled and can't work. Neither he nor I have gotten any disability payments in several months. Yes, I agree, it's a terrible mess. You obviously know why I called, what can you do to help us out? Is that in addition to the money in the checking account? Yes, I can cut them checks but it might be better if you wired all of the money into Derek's account here and Gassville, can you still do wire transfers? I see. Well, if Damon and I drove to Iowa could you have the money for us in cash? Ok, It will take a few days, and then we'll see you. Thanks, Matt."

"Damon and I have to drive up to Charles City."

Survival Story – Chapter 23

“Why?”

“To get the money Matt has for us. I called him like you asked and he’s going to have the balance of your savings account, our checking account and a portion of the CDs converted into cash. He can’t wire the money; we have to go pick it up.”

“That’s a very long way to travel with cash.”

“You’re right; I wouldn’t mind having a Hummer with a Ma Deuce. We’ll drive something inconspicuous; maybe we can borrow an old pickup.”

“Well, ok, but you be very careful. You could take Derek with you.”

“He has to leave in a week or so. We’d better leave him here or Mary will kill me. Besides what if there’s trouble, he’s the soldier. I have a map and I think we’ll mostly take less used highways and blacktops. It will take us longer to get there, but we should be able to avoid trouble.”

“How far is it?”

“About 610 miles using the shortest route. We’ll be going through Kirksville and Waverly. I sure like that mapping software on my computer. We’re going to have to divert around Springfield, that’s no big deal. We won’t leave until the day after tomorrow, Matt said he needed time to get the cash.”

“How bad did the trust get hurt?”

“About $\frac{2}{3}$ intact. It far better than I thought it would be. He said they dumped some investments and reinvested the money in Iowa. I’m going to ask him what he can do to get Damon and me our disability funds. He might know something that will help.”

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That 12 hour drive took 24; we were especially careful and avoided nearly every town on the way north. Having Damon drive was a better idea than I realized, truckers know where the scales are and know a lot of ways to avoid cities. Joe loaned us his pickup for the trip, it was a nondescript ‘70s GMC that he’d modified as a flex fuel vehicle. It had an auxiliary tank made out of a 100-gallon fuel drum. If I’d have dressed in bib overalls and a John Deere hat, the odds are you’d have mistaken me for a farmer.

“I need to pull up and rest a while.”

“Do you know where we are?”

“Just south of Kirksville. If you want to stay awake, all I need is about 3 hours of sleep.”

What the hell, the coffee was still lukewarm and I hadn't taken my sleeping pills. This was one of those times a guy really needed a cruiser version of a shotgun, one of those with the very short barrel ala 12" long. Don't get me wrong, I was well armed, I had both Colts plus one of those WW II military shoulder holsters with my PT1911 and the Nazi .32 auto in my pocket. I was doing pretty good until a dog wailed. Man, that made me cringe, I'm not partial to the dark.

“Wake up, you've had your 3 hours, let's go.”

“I need a few minutes to wake up, Dad.”

“Like father, like son? Hell, you snore as bad as I do.”

“Any coffee left?”

“I saved you a cup.”

“Let me get out and stretch and you can divvy up the coffee.”

“Here, clean your hands.”

“What's that?”

“Purcell.”

“Do you always carry a bottle of alcohol?”

“Not the kind you can drink, no.”

“Where are we?”

“You said we were south of Kirksville.”

“Oh, right. Are you ready to go?”

“Let me stretch and wash my hands.”

“We're here.”

“Huh?”

“Charles City, you've been sleeping since we left Missouri.”

“Pull into that restaurant, I need coffee.”

I hadn't been in Charles City since 2001, when my father died. I hadn't lived in Charles city since 1970 when we lived in Dad's house while I was going to Wartburg. Nobody knew me and I didn't really know anybody in Charles City. I'd left in '61 and had never really returned for very long. We peel off the weapons and went into the restaurant for coffee. Then we headed up Main Street to the Bank. I grabbed a knapsack I'd borrowed from Audrey to carry the money. We had to wait for Matt to be free and then I had to sign for the money. Matt said to be careful carrying that much cash.

We departed town immediately and made it to Kirksville where we stopped, got more coffee and continued on. The return trip was much faster, about 12 hours. The money was in manila envelopes, each marked with a name. When we got home, we stopped by Derek's and gave him his. Then we went by the house and I took Sharon and my envelope and Damon refilled the tank on Joe's pickup. He said he'd drop it off and I told him I'd settle up with Joe tomorrow.

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I gave Sharon the money, took a shower and crawled into bed, I was tired. The next morning she had pancakes and after I ate, I sat down to my computer to read a file I'd created in the fall of 2006. It was from DEBKAfile:

The extraordinary buildup of European naval and military strength in and around Lebanon's shores is way out of proportion for the task the European contingents of expanded UNIFIL have undertaken: to create a buffer between Israel and Hezbollah.

Close investigation by DEBKAfile's military and intelligence sources discloses that "Lebanese security" and peacemaking is not the object of the exercise. It is linked to the general anticipation of a military clash between the United States and Israel, on one side, and Iran and possibly Syria on the other, sometime from now until November.

This expectation has brought together the greatest sea and air armada Europe has ever assembled at any point on earth since World War II: two carriers with 75 fighter-bombers, spy planes and helicopters on their decks; 15 warships of various types – 7 French, 5 Italian, 2-3 Greek, 3-5 German, and five American; thousands of Marines – French, Italian and German, as well as 1,800 US Marines.

It is improbably billed as support for a mere 7,000 European soldiers who are deployed in Lebanon to prevent the dwindling Israeli force of 4-5,000 soldiers and some 15-16,000 Hezbollah militiamen from coming to blows as well as for humanitarian odd jobs.

A Western military expert remarked to DEBKAfile that the European naval forces cruising off Lebanese shores are roughly ten times as much as the UNIFIL contingents require as cover, especially when UNIFIL's duties are strictly non-combat. After all, none of the UN contingents will be engaged in disarming Hezbollah or blocking the flow of weapons incoming from Syria and Iran.

So, if not for Lebanon, what is this fine array of naval power really there for?

First, according to our military sources, the European participants feel the need of a strong naval presence in the eastern Mediterranean to prevent a possible Iranian-US-Israeli war igniting an Iranian long-range Shahab missile attack on Europe; second, as a deterrent to dissuade Syria and Hezbollah from opening a second front against America and Israel from their eastern Mediterranean coasts.

Numbers alone do not do justice to the immense operational capabilities and firepower amassed opposite Lebanon. Take first the three fleet flagships.

From France's nuclear-powered 38,000-ton Charles De Gaulle carrier, 40 Rafale M fighter craft whose range is 3,340 km can take off at intervals of 30 seconds. The ship also carries three E-2C Hawkeye surveillance craft. The combat control center of the French carrier can handle 2,000 simultaneous targets. The carrier leads a task force of 7 warships carrying 2,800 French Marines.

Charles De Gaulle is also a floating logistics center operating water desalination plants for 15,000 men and enough food to feed an army for 90 days.

The USS Mount Whitney has the most sophisticated command and control suite in the world. Like the French Charles De Gaulle, it exercises command over a task force of 1,800 sailors, Marines, Air Force medical and other personnel serving aboard the USS Barry, the USS Trenton, HSV Swift and USNS Kanawha.

Available to the fleet commander, US Vice Admiral J. "Boomer" Stufflebeem, formally titled commander of Joint Task Force Lebanon, is the uniquely advanced C4I command and intelligence system through which he can flash intelligence data to every American commander at any point between the eastern Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf and Iran. USS Mount Whitney communications are described as unsurpassed for the secure transmission of data from any point to any other point in the world through HF, UHF, VHF, SHF and EHF.

The third carrier joining the other two is the Italian aircraft-helicopter carrier Garibaldi, which has launch pads for vertical takeoff by 16 AV-8B Harrier fighter-bombers or 18 Sikorsky SH-3D Sea King sea-choppers (or Italian Augusta Bell AB212 helicopters), designed to attack submarines and missile ships.

Military experts estimate that the Garibaldi currently carries 10 fighter planes and 6 helicopters.

The new European naval concentration tops up the forces which permanently crowd the eastern Mediterranean: the Italian-based American Sixth Fleet, some 15 small Israeli missile ships and half a dozen submarines and the NATO fleet of Canadian, British, Dutch, German, Spanish, Greek and Turkish warships. They are on patrol against al

Qaeda (which is estimated to deploy 45 small freighters in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean). The British have permanent air and sea bases in Cyprus.

This vast force's main weakness, according to DEBKAF's military sources, is that it lacks a single unified command. A sudden flare-up in Lebanon, Syria or Iran could throw the entire force into confusion.

On paper, it has three commanders:

1. French General Alain Pellegrini is the commander of the expanded UNIFIL ground, naval and air force in Lebanon. In February 2007, he hands over to an Italian General who leads the largest of the European contingents of 3,000 men. It is hard to see France agreeing to place its prestigious Charles De Gaulle flagship under non-French command.

2. The American forces opposite Lebanese shores are under direct US command. Since the October 1993 debacle of an American peace force under the UN flag in Somalia, Washington has never again placed its military under UN command. (There is no American contingent in the UNIFIL ground force either.)

In other words, USS Mount Whitney, while serving the European fleets as their operational and intelligence nerve center will stay under the sole command of Vice Admiral Stufflebeem in all possible contingencies.

3. Similarly, the NATO fleet will remain under NATO command, and Israel's air and naval units will take their orders from Israeli Navy Headquarters in Haifa and the General Staff in Tel Aviv.

The naval Babel piling up in the eastern Mediterranean may therefore find itself at cross purposes when action is needed in an armed conflict. Iran, Syria and Hezbollah could be counting on this weakness as a tactical asset in their favor.

If one thought about it, Europe had been more worried about Iran than they let on. Blair was out in '07, just after the earthquake but before the terrorist attacks. Labour thought they had the election in their pocket, the Tories (Conservative Party) won. The reason was because Labour was divided after the wars that Blair had support George Bush in. Then we had the terrorist attacks and I lost track.

◦

Our attack on Saudi Arabia and Iran was seen by most Americans as retaliation for the terrorist attacks, according to the radio. As I said before, if we'd done it right, no one would have been totally sure who had made the attack and it might not have resulted in the war. Without faulting Bush, I'll have to say we should have been more discrete. I will believe to my dying day that Russia would never have attacked us had we done it my way. Not that Russia had become a Democracy, they hadn't but because of MAD. No

doubt they'd shelter their populous in shelters in advance of their attack; they could do that while the US didn't have a Civil Defense System. We canned the Federal Civil Defense Authority in '79 and replace it with FEMA, thanks Jimmy. In 1993, President Bill Clinton elevated FEMA to a cabinet level position and named James Lee Witt as FEMA Director. Witt initiated reforms that would help to streamline the disaster recovery and mitigation process. The end of the Cold War also allowed the agency's resources to be turned away from civil defense to natural disaster preparedness.

Do you remember what I taught you? The Cold War never ended, I wrote a story just to explain that to you; at best it changed character. IIRC, we ended up in Arkansas in that story too. When we got the big one in California, we ran. That may have been one of the best decisions I ever made. It was cultural shock moving from a city of 125,000 to a little town of 2,000, we got over it. Our only complaint was the humidity. There were plenty of Wal-Marts around; I didn't miss Costco that much.

In a fore comment to that story, I told you, there may be nothing more dangerous than people being misinformed. I heard the President say last night that Russia and China are the US's allies when it comes to keeping Kim Jong-Il in his place. When did the Cold War end? I went on to say, there is only one thing wrong with the information about the Cold War at Global Security. The Cold War never ended; it simply went underground for a few years. That was never more apparent than in the year 2005. During early 2005, the Russians held joint maneuvers with the Chinese. Later in 2005, the Russian supplied missiles to Syria and nuclear technology to Iran. That's fact, not speculation. After the 34 day war, I'm sure more people believed me.

Buy some KIO_3 from SOMEONE, you'd hate to need it and not have it. Radmeters4U has more than enough survey meters on hand; buy some. Medical Corps has lots of KIO_3 , as does Frugal. I ordered my 10 M1A magazines from Ammoman on 6Sep06, and had them shipped to Arkansas. IN STOCK: As of this afternoon (Wednesday, 3:40 PM CST, 9/6/2006) we have about 2,200 successfully tested and calibrated dosimeters in inventory. These have been both electric leak and radiation accuracy tested. (BTW, 3 of these tested dosimeters along with a tested dosimeter charger are included in The Package detailed above.)

They don't include enough KI in The Package so you will have to buy more, either Frugal or Medical Corps. Nobody expects a terrorist attack; there is no absolute proof that one is going to happen, especially with WMD. While the Sheeple are waiting for it to happen, many Squirrels are preparing because they understand it's not a question of if, but rather when and what. WMDs are chemical, biological or nuclear. You're going to need gas masks with NBC filters.

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"What are you doing?"

“Ruminating (to go over in the mind repeatedly and often casually or slowly or to chew a cud).”

“About what?”

“If people took me seriously. You know the old adage that you can lead a horse to water but you can’t make them drink. My stories weren’t very good, most survival stories are action filled; mine assembled information and drew conclusions. That may have been the know your enemy part. I rarely left my characters totally unprepared because I wanted to show that with nominal preparations, the odds favored surviving.”

“Did you write many?”

“Close to 50 Derek, most of them making the same point. Because I know a little bit about medicine, I included tips about drugs and always told them to buy beans and rice. I had my must have list that included things like toilet paper, coffee, smokes plus the beans and rice. What I didn’t know, I either learned from readers, other authors or the internet. That’s why my computer has over 400,000 files.”

“You do know I have to leave, don’t you?”

“Can’t violate your oath, but do like I always tell you, keep your powder dry and cover your six. I see you still have the stripe, is that permanent?”

“Field promotion that could become permanent, depending on how things work out. I suppose it might; there are vacancies in the ranks.”

“Can you get some more BDU’s? I forgotten how much I liked to wear them, especially these new ones. I presume this is the new digital camouflage pattern.”

“I can get some, how many people want them and in what sizes?”

“I’ll get that for you and you can pick them up before you leave. I’m buying so if you need more, get those too.”

“I’m going to let Damon used the .50 cal while I’m gone, and take it back when I get home. Don’t let him get too attached to it.”

“I won’t, he’s not a firearms person, that shotgun and pistol of his are all he ever uses. Do they feed you ok?”

“T-rations most of the time, occasionally MREs. I have some Tabasco sauce because some of the MREs that need it don’t include it. When we were collecting the bodies in Little Rock, I didn’t eat much.”

“You haven’t said much about your trip to California.”

“Not much to tell, we pulled in the HETS, unloaded, revised our combat load to reflect new guidelines and headed to the border. We were the first detachment to arrive and by the time we got there some of the Mexicans were already pulling back. That’s the first time we loaded canister. I was the Platoon Sergeant and my new LT was the Platoon Leader.”

“Will they turn around and come back?”

“Don’t think so, we left what was left of the Air Force behind. I think they were loaded up with cluster bombs.”

“As long as we bomb them on our side of the border that might work. If they had built the fence, the pilots would know which side they were on.”

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It wasn’t likely anyone would mistake me for a soldier, even if I was wearing BDUs and LBE. While I could get myself around without support, in the form of a cane or wheelchair, once I got loaded down with my weapons (including Rambo I) I couldn’t move more than 50’ without assistance. The diabetes had atrophied not only the nerves in my hands and legs, but the muscles in my legs. I figured that was because I couldn’t walk far. Fifteen years back, I had a set of calves, let me tell you. It came from toting a 30# briefcase and a 10# laptop everywhere I went.

All of my ruminating included thinking about the war and why it happened. I decided that wasn’t a single cause, rather an accumulation of events. For 40 years, it had been the US and Russia holding each other at arm’s length. Russia was exporting Marxism and we were exporting Democracy. Not any Democracy would do, it had to be our flavor. There was nothing wrong with our flavor, for us; others lacked some of the things it took to come up with our flavor. Hindsight is 20/20.

Which is getting me away of relating how we were doing there in Gassville. Pretty good, all things considered. The family was together; we salvaged enough food for a while and had managed some gardens. Our propane was topped off, the generator rebuilt; we had all the JP8/Jet A/diesel we could hold and enough gasoline to get by if we didn’t take many road trips. I had my ‘around house’ wheelchair and my heavier ‘tactical wheelchair’.

“Would breakfast be ok for supper?”

“Did you find eggs?”

“Yes, I got 3 dozen from a friend of Mary’s.”

“Wow. Three over medium with bacon and toast.”

“You’ll have to slice the bread if you want toast; I never get it thin enough.”

You all knew that the man who came up with sliced bread was born in Des Moines and raised in Davenport, don’t you? When he perfected his machine, the first mass marketed sliced bread was Wonder Bread from Chillicothe, Missouri. That was in the 1930s. We hadn’t found a bread slicer we could salvage and I was going to put it on my ‘A’ list.

It was late in the year now, early October. It had been over a year since the war. We’d gotten by so far because of our preparations. The country was starting to dig itself out, but that could take years. The GPS still worked so either the satellites hadn’t failed or the government had been able to launch new ones. Not that it matters, I had a Magellan. It was cooling off now and Aaron was in school so I didn’t go sit on the porch and maintain the day watch.

Derek left before I had a chance to say goodbye, keep your powder dry and watch your six. Mary told me they were going back to Little Rock and he’d be able to come home from time to time. I hadn’t fished for years and didn’t even have any tackle. John came by one day and asked me to go fishing. He had a boat but it wasn’t one of those fancy Ranger boats. I agreed because he had life preservers and extra fishing tackle. I got a light jacket and my Nazi .32 and we headed to Bull Shoals Lake.

When we got there, I held the rope while he backed into the ramp and pushed the boat into the water. John said he knew a good hole not far from the landing. He powered up his electric motor and we were there in minutes.

“Try this lure on that extra rig I have.”

Jeez, it was a Mitchell Garcia 300, be still my heart. I cast and retrieved 3 or 4 times before I got a hit. It was a stubborn fish and didn’t want to join us in the boat, but it didn’t know how bullheaded I could be.

“That one will go about 3 pounds.”

“It felt much bigger John. For a while I thought I hooked Moby Dick.”

We fished until John got tired and called it a day. I had 9 fish ranging in size from 3 pounds to 4 pounds. They were big mouth bass, not record size, but good size. When we got back to the house, John came in and took a few minutes to fillet them for me. Rather than deal with creating a second mess at home, he filleted his too. Sharon kept out two fillets and wrapped and froze the rest. We’d probably have fish and fried potatoes for super.

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I finished reading the 9/11 Report. It mainly blamed the bureaucracy and not individuals. It appeared that we'd missed the lesson we'd been taught by the Japanese on December 7th. Abuse of power and the so called end of the Cold War had led to gutting agencies that could have given us warning. Insufficient focus was given to events that could have warned us. When we did react, after 9/11, the so called Muslim fanatics were well established and it was all downhill from there. As noted in the 9/11 Commission Report, hindsight is 20/20. I'm not sure that some of the things the government did in the aftermath were the correct things to do; it was what some call a knee-jerk reaction.

The real clue came, in my mind, with the 34-Day War. It was around then that Sharon got serious about our preparations. Even then, we couldn't go far enough because we were like many others and lacked the funds. That's why I said earlier that like Ron's cancer, the big one really worked to save our lives. Her settlement in the lawsuit allowed us to start. If we had the full amount and not the net amount, we could have bought a shelter from USS. The lawyers got \$43,000 of the settlement. Sharon Packer would have been more than happy to sell another shelter system.

We'd deserted Palmdale in favor of Arkansas and later decided to live there. We no longer had anyone living with us, a real blessing. Hah! 2007 wasn't the best of times at all. What's that saying? *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way...* – Charles Dickens

Yes, we'd turned control over to the Iraqi Army, but they said they'd need our help. We were trying to force Iran and North Korea to eliminate their nuclear programs, to no avail. The Taliban in Afghanistan had a renewed energy and was giving us and NATO fits. The UN had done exactly nothing to stop Syria and Iran from resupplying Hezbollah. The Olmert government had proven ineffective in Israel. Personally, I'd prefer an Army or Marine General to be the Chief of the Joint Chiefs.

As I said, hindsight is 20/20. Back in late 2006 a person could feel it coming. If my wife was concerned enough to begin to prepare, the entire world should have been getting prepared. Remember what Chris said, *Nope, I'm not a crackpot like you, Gary.* Crackpot or not, we were more ready for the earthquake than anyone in the neighborhood. There comes a time when it's very appropriate to get the hell out of Dodge. We did and didn't go back except to unload the house.

Mobile homes are built slightly different these days and they're still not tornado proof. They do look more like a real house inside and if they're properly anchored to concrete risers are probably as safe as a real house. If a tornado hits a house, any house, it's a goner and that's why you need a tornado shelter.

Survival Story – Chapter 24

What's difference between a tornado shelter and a bomb shelter? I suppose maybe it's the blast door, the air system and the standby power. The air system is very important because you need fresh air that's been cleaned and you need a scrubber to remove CO and CO₂. After you've gone that far, what's the big deal about adding a survey meter and some dosimeters? You don't need top of the line Ham equipment; you can get by with some good used equipment. The combined antennas aren't as good as some others, but you can also get by with them.

"Oh, hi Aaron, how was school?"

"Boring."

"Not as exciting as going to the range and shooting, huh?"

"Can we?"

"It's a little cold out. Maybe you can get your Dad to take you."

"He's busy with his guinea pigs."

"I thought he kept them separate so they wouldn't have any more babies."

"So did I grandpa."

"Did you know that one of my readers worked for The History Channel?"

"Who?"

"I didn't get a name, but when I was writing one of my stories linking the 34-Day War, the History Channel ran a program called, "World War III? Beyond Lebanon".

"Aw, you just watched too much TV, grandpa."

"Maybe I did Aaron, maybe I did. Sharon and I had already begun to make preps when that program aired on September 8, 9 and 10 of 2006. On the other hand all we had at that time was our list of things. I had purchased the magazines for my M1A rifle, but not the rifle or the ammo yet. Aaron, it seemed that war was inevitable. I read everything I could get my hands on. To understand where you're going, you have to understand where you've been. I added the Christian Science Monitor to my newspaper list and the current news at Global Security. Do you remember studying The Crusades in school?"

"That's what we're studying now."

"Pay attention, Aaron, the Crusades, like the Cold War, never ended."

“That isn’t what my teacher said.”

“Aaron, the Crusades had profound but localized effects upon the Islamic world, where the equivalents of ‘Franks’ and ‘Crusaders’ remained expressions of disdain. Muslims traditionally celebrate Saladin, the Kurdish warrior, as a hero against the Crusaders. In the 21st century, some in the Arab world, such as the Arab independence movement and Pan-Islamism movement, continue to call Western involvement in the Middle East a ‘Crusade’. The Crusades were regarded by the Islamic world as cruel and savage onslaughts by European Christians.”

“Let’s go back to the TV show, grandpa.”

“Ok, if you like. The TV show was making a point. Iran was using a surrogate, Hezbollah, to attack Israel and in so doing making an indirect attack on us. I don’t remember anymore. We were on the brink and some folks were warning us.”

“Will it be a lot different now, Grandpa?”

“I think so. The technology that survived will wear out. I’m not sure we’ll be able to replace most of it. Maybe you can in a few years, but any factory they manage to get up and running will be producing essentials. We moved so much of our industry overseas, I don’t know how long it will take to get it back.”

“What’s going to happen now?”

“I’ll be danged if I know. The attack must have cracked my crystal ball. In part, it depends on who survived. In part it depends on how many of the younger generations who are only interested in drugs and violence survived. Really, I think it depends on how successful we are at keeping the BGs out of this area. If we succeed, life will go back to what it was 60 years ago; before rural America had electricity. Maybe, even before the tractor when some people farmed with horses.”

“But grandpa, we have all the utilities back now.”

“For how long, Aaron? What are we going to do when they run out of coal or natural gas or whatever they use to produce electricity? What is this family going to do when we can’t get any more propane, diesel or gasoline? Our saving grace may be that we have knowledge and can come up with alternatives. Like, for example, a wood fired steam engine to drive the alternator to produce electricity. Right now is when we need to be thinking about the alternatives. Which reminds me, I need to get your Dad to check out a computer store. Maybe he can pick up 3 or 4 computers and we’ll use them up one at a time.”

“We studied steam engines in school.”

“Hmm, if we could get a steam engine that ran at 1,800rpm, we could get a spare alternator for our generator and rig something up. Could you excuse me? I have some planning to do.”

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My uncle Glenn’s hobby had been steam engines and I was just a kid when he died. Jeez, that was a long time ago. Up in Floyd County Iowa, they had a group who collected and operated old engines, including steam engines. Maybe if we looked around, we could find one in this part of the country and either restore it or duplicate it. Steam was still used to generate electricity but it was usually with turbines. I was moderately sure that someone probably built a steam powered generator. The trick would be in finding one.

Anything we used would represent a problem. Wind turbines only work where the wind blows. Solar cells were expensive and required batteries to store the energy and several inverters to power one house. There was no way we were going to Palm Springs or Tehachapi to steal a large wind turbine. Or Kansas for that matter, there was a wind farm in Kansas that I wrote about. Not that we didn’t have time to figure it out, Art said he could keep us in propane for years. Could we get diesel and keep the Kohler generator running for years?

At the moment, our generator was in good shape because Joe had rebuilt the engine. That might not help when it needed to be rebuilt again because parts might not be available. Someone has to worry about these things and I was elected because I worried about everything, it’s in the nature of an obsessive compulsive person. Once school started, I spent a lot of time in the basement inventorying what we had. I didn’t have Access, but a spreadsheet accomplished the same task.

“I’ve finished and know what holes we need to fill in.”

“Good, where are we going to get it?”

“Should I include the stuff we canned out of the garden?”

“You’d better.”

“Ok, I’ll inventory it and add it in, that changes everything. I think we’re getting close to eating Spam, tuna and other canned meats.”

“Why?”

“We have one freezer serving five families, Sharon. It seems like someone is here every day getting more things out of the freezer. Do you have any idea where we might get more?”

“There a packer in town, they process beef, pork and chicken, Twin Lake Packing. The Meat Shop in Mountain Home specializes in Black Angus and I don’t what the Meat Corral and Deli carries.”

“Black Angus? I wonder if we could get a whole beef, a couple of cases of chickens and some pork?”

“Do we have room?”

“If we don’t, we can borrow another freezer. I’ll talk to Damon and ask him to find one. I know you can put a whole beef in a 25 foot chest type. I assume you’ll want pork loins, bacon, hams and pork steak. There have to be some empty homes that had freezers. We may have to air it out, scrub it and use baking soda to absorb the odor; I’ll mention that to him.”

“Has anyone thought of looking for a grocery warehouse?”

“Well, I thought about it. Since we’re new to the area, I’m not sure where to look.”

“I’ll call Helen, maybe John or she will know.”

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Damon found 2 identical freezers, one didn’t work and the other was filled with spoiled meat. He threw away the meat and swapped the cooling components from the one that worked to the one that didn’t. Before he tried that, he tried to clean the one that stank with ammonia, vinegar and baking soda, none of which worked. He fooled around with the freezers for about 3 weeks and I was getting worried because Sharon had talked to Helen and found out where to get meat. Damon and I manhandled the freezer into the basement, I ran the winch, and Sharon handed him an envelope of cash.

“Damon, the places you need to go to pick up the meat are on the envelope together with how much you have to pay. After you get it back here, we’ll wrap it and divide it up with you kids.”

“Do you want to ride along as shotgun, Dad?”

“Weeell... sure, why not, give a minute to get my shotgun.”

“I thought you were getting your shotgun.”

“I did.”

“Why did you get your revolvers?”

“For when I run out of shotgun shells.”

“I didn’t mean it literally.”

“Why not, do you have any idea what the meat is worth?”

“Yes, I do it’s written on the envelope.”

“Damon, it’s worth more than money, that’d our food for the next year. I don’t believe we’ll have any trouble, but you can never be too careful.”

“We’ll stop by my house get my shotgun if you’re worried.”

“You take my shotgun and I’ll get my M1A. It would waste gas going back to your place.”

Our first stop was in Mountain Home to pick up a whole Black Angus from the Meat Shop. They usually got orders for quarters or sides but rarely did people buy 2 sides at the same time. Sharon had ordered a case of boneless to use up more of the fat and they threw in a full case of hot dogs. From there, we went back to Gassville and to the packing house. We picked up boxes of prime cuts, ergo, Boston butts, boneless loins, hams, bacon, Pullman hams and 4 boxes of chickens, about 200 birds. Finally, we hit the Meat Corral and Deli where we picked up minced ham (bologna), salami, ring sausage and condiments.

“We’ll sort the meat as we put it in the freezer, Damon. That should make it easier dividing it up. Put the boxes of chicken in the kitchen and the prime cuts on the basement floor, we do those after the chickens.”

“Ok. What do you do to the chickens?”

“That’s the easy part, take them out of the box and wrap them whole in kraft paper. We can cut the loins into chops with my butcher knife and do the hard part last.”

“What’s that?”

“Cutting the pork steak. It will be easier if it’s about half frozen, I have to use a meat saw on it.”

Pork steak is the same thing as chuck steak or a 7 bone roast. The bones are nearly identical and most meat departments cut pork steak with a band saw. When I did it by hand, I made a cut to the bone, used the saw to get through the bone and finished with my knife. When I was young, I watched a butcher making pork chops the old way, with a cleaver. By the time I learned to cut meat, we cut pork chops with the band saw. Hughie never bought boneless pork loins and was too lazy to use a cleaver. He also bought the bologna (minced ham) in the 6’ sticks.

We all know that bologna isn't really made out of ham. However, when I was 10 years old, stores like Fareway in Charles City called it minced ham. I was thinking about that as I cut and Damon wrapped. With a band saw, I could have made short work of those Boston butts. Today, I hated pork steak just because of the amount of work it was taking to cut it up. Not that I liked pork steak in the first place, I found it to be too greasy. Once I got past the bone part of the butt, I left the remainder as a pork roast rather than cutting boneless pork steak. If I had been thinking, I'd have cut boneless pork steak and left the bone in portion of the butt as the pork roast. Maybe next year...

By the time we got done, it was nearly supper time so I showed Damon how I cut up a chicken. He wanted to know about the Pullman hams and I explained you sliced them and served them as boiled ham or 'ham slices'. I looked around and Britney, Aaron and Eric had shown up so I cut up a second chicken.

"Did you guys have a good day at school?"

"Boring." (Aaron)

"Great." (Eric)

"Just another day." (Britney)

"Fried chicken ok for supper?"

"Sure." (chorus)

"You didn't pull guard duty today?"

"Your Dad and I have been very busy today, Aaron. We picked up a year's supply of meat and cut and wrapped the prime cuts."

"Doesn't it come cut and wrapped?"

"Only the beef came that way. We've been cutting up the pork."

"You were just cutting chickens."

"Yes, we cut them as we use them. Any more questions?"

"Can I have white meat?"

o

Back when we got the money before the earthquake, I made sure we bought a knife sharpener from Harbor Freight Tools. It was a belt sharpener that was something like an upside down belt sander with a blade guide. It was much easier to cut meat with a sharp

knife. The only thing I hadn't gotten was a flat steel. I had one on my list, but as we began to burn through the settlement money, I decided to forego the steel until we had more money, and somehow I managed to never buy one. I had a commercial steel but not the best.

"Fried potatoes or mashed potatoes and chicken gravy?"

"Mashed potatoes and how about a quart of the home canned green beans?"

"I don't have one up here."

"Damon, when you put the last of the meat in the freezer, would you grab a couple of quarts of green beans and a quart of bread and butter pickles?"

"Sure."

"Here you go."

"Give them to Sharon. I don't suppose you've seen a powered meat saw anywhere, have you?"

"Not really, all the places that would have them are still open for business. If you want me to find one, I suppose I could go to Little Rock."

"No, I'll just cut boneless pork steak next year, thanks anyway."

"What's for supper?"

"Damon go get 2 more chickens out of the freezer, would you please? Chicken, girls, with smashed potatoes and green beans. Sharon do you want me to peel more potatoes or will you?"

That night after supper we gave Damon, Lorrie and Amy meat to take home with them. I sort of figured I have to get out a Pullman ham the next day and cut up lunch meat for them; ham, salami and bologna. It wasn't that hard, we spent about \$400 on a commercial slicer before the earthquake. I think we'd bought 2 of the cheap slicers over the years but they were just that, cheap. Getting a real slicer had been on Sharon's list.

o

Although John wouldn't ship ammo to California, I managed to find some dealers who had the South African surplus who would. It turned out that you couldn't ship ammo to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Orange County. I had the ammo shipped to Sister Charlene in California City. I suppose some people must be wondering about her. California City hadn't been seriously affected by the earthquake and Charlene's son Geoffrey and his girlfriend were living with Charlene. She wasn't interested in moving to Ar-

kansas with us. California City hadn't gotten any radiation from Los Angeles during the terrorist attacks and we were out of touch after the war. As luck would have it, Sister Shirley and her boyfriend Darwin, weren't in Des Moines the day the war started, and we weren't sure where they ended up.

I had never maintained close family ties but Sharon did. I won't say I didn't care, but there was nothing I could do and most of my relatives were in Iowa and none of the people I cared about were in Des Moines. Besides, we knew Charles City was still there so most of my family probably was too. More than once Sharon wondered aloud about both Charlene and Shirley but I never heard her mention her younger brother Johnny. Despite Johnny suffering from PTSD, I wouldn't mind having a Vietnam vet around in case the BGs showed up, assuming we could afford it. Johnny had one of the early issue M16s in Vietnam and it frequently jammed. One day he got tired of that and wrapped it around a tree. We had Bushmaster's and current issue ammo so maybe that wouldn't happen. The problem was, he didn't know where we lived now or even if we were alive.

Who in America didn't have PTSD? Maybe we were too busy just surviving to notice. I had a book so I could have looked up the symptoms, but I just didn't care. With Derek gone back to Little Rock, I didn't feel as secure as I had when he had been home. We were getting periodic updates on the radio claiming the progress the government was making with the cleanup. I was skeptical because I wasn't sure how long it would take to bury 200 million bodies; it had taken weeks to handle the dead in our 3 city area.

It was probably the dead that brought the scope of the tragedy that I called WW III to our attention. It also got me to thinking about the rule of threes. Arkansas hadn't had an earthquake so I guess that means they only had the terrorist attacks and the war that affected them. Hmm, did that mean we had one to go? Crap, we're going to have a tornado or the New Madrid Fault is going to let loose. Maybe not, that would most affect northeastern Arkansas, so it had to be a tornado.

There had only been one way to handle that many bodies, mass graves. Although town officials, those that remained, could identify the deceased, there weren't enough coffins available to give everyone a separate burial. Really, there weren't even enough body bags. Each of the 3 towns had to handle their own burials and in Gassville a large area was excavated and the bodies all buried in the same place. Eventually, the holes had been filled in and grass seeded.

Those that remained, the town government, were spread thin. Not that Gassville had that many to begin with, but with more than half of their number gone, there had been trouble filling the ranks. The packing plant was forced to cut back on their staff because they were only processing meat for local consumption permitting the town to put some of their employees to work.

When that was first announced shortly after we came out of the shelter (the second time), I wondered how the town could pay the people to work for them. It wasn't like the

town of Gassville had large revenues to begin with. After the war, most people didn't have any money so they couldn't levy taxes to get funds to pay wages. The town did just exactly what we did, salvage. The employees were then paid wages in supplies.

I had always thought that money wouldn't be worth the paper it was printed on. Very few people had any gold or silver and the FRNs were the only means of exchange. While that might change in time, it hadn't for the first year or more after the war. And, when Damon and I went to Charles City, all the bank could give us was paper money. How many stories had I written that assumed cash wouldn't be king? All of them to this point. Not everything had quite worked out as I had hoped Derek was gone, there wasn't any gold and silver to be had and we didn't have any permanent source of power.

9/11 came and went this year and I didn't even notice. We had just been finishing up the harvest from the garden and still had spuds to dig. There had been too many events since the WTC and Pentagon. It was all part of the same event that had started way back with the first Gulf War. We hadn't really had any peace since. I listed the events in *When We Were Young* and don't need to repeat them.

The question asked often in the articles, analyses and programs marking the 5th anniversary of the attacks on New York's Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington is: Why has al Qaeda never launched another attack in America on the same scale?

There are plenty of answers: a homeland security department was created, intelligence services are better coordinated within the US system and with outside agencies; some even say there are no Muslim terrorists in the United States, or that the numbers of those still at large outside America have been pared down and disabled by the global war on terror.

But the true explanation is to be found in the modus operandi of al Qaeda and its fellow Islamic terrorist organizations, which consists mainly of these elements:

1. The element of time – or patience:

Al Qaeda and its regional jihadist affiliates in the Far East, the Middle East and the Europe-North Africa branch set their clocks according to a time system quite unrelated to that of the US or intelligence - or for that matter any military or terrorist outfit geared to the principle of instantaneous cause and effect.

They have all the time in the world and endless patience, because their operational tempo is dictated by the tenets of their brand of fundamentalist Islam.

It took al Qaeda two years from the planning stage in early 1991 until implementation in February 1993 to execute its first attack on the Twin Towers of New York.

Since the targeted buildings were left standing with "only" six people killed and some 1,000 injured, Al Qaeda judged the operation a failure. There and then, its master plan-

ners began plotting the next attack, which was finally executed eight years later on Sept. 11, 2001.

Similarly, in 1994-95, al Qaeda operative Ramzi Yousef failed to carry out a plot to hijack 12 airliners taking off from different departure points in Asia and supposed to blow up over American cities. A New York district court sentenced him in 1998 to 240 years solitary confinement.

Yet the plot was not abandoned. Al Qaeda patiently assembly a new scheme and was ready to put it into practice 13 years later. In July 2006, British security authorities discovered a plot to hijack 6-10 American airliners from British airports and explode them over American cities.

What this means is that al Qaeda will keep on trying, however long it takes: time is no object.

2. No clues left at the scene of the crime:

The perfect terrorist crime is a typical feature of al Qaeda's methods of operation. Its operatives never leave behind clues that might betray the mastermind of any terror plot. Six years after a suicide bomb-boat rammed a gaping hole in the American destroyer, the USS Cole in the Yemeni port of Aden; five years after 9/11; two years after the Madrid rail bombings; and more than a year after the lethal explosions on London trains and a bus, not a single US, European, Middle Eastern or Israeli intelligence service can claim to have a lead to the plotters, the organizers or the individuals who launched the terrorists on their missions of death. The same applies to dozens of smaller attacks. Neither has any counter-terror agency any clear concept of how the mechanism which sets the attacks in motion works. There are plenty of theories, but no solid information – a lacuna which raises two serious problems.

First: It partially explains why al Qaeda has not carried out a large-scale attack inside America. The organization does not lack local cells or the ability to penetrate the United States. In an open society, that poses no difficulty. But al Qaeda's master-terrorists want to be absolutely sure that their next attack leaves no tracks leading to the level which controls the perpetrators-suicides. That is the sine qua non for Osama bin Laden's operation and that is the insuperable challenge confronting Western intelligence.

Second: Notwithstanding American intelligence and counter-terror achievements in the war on terror, and the elimination of many high-profile operatives, still somewhere in the world an al Qaeda team or teams are putting together a horrendous terrorist attack for execution in the United States, Europe or Israel, which may take one year, five years or twenty to perpetrate.

Survival Story – Chapter 25

3. Other American fronts:

American politicians, intelligence experts, researchers and some members of the American public prefer not to classify the vicious war al Qaeda has conducted against US forces in Iraq and the sabotage of White House goals there as a deadly attack on the United States.

But al Qaeda's leaders see it differently. For two years, Osama bin Laden has staked huge resources in generating violence, misery and untold death in Iraq because he regards this campaign as the ultimate assault on the United States and all it stands for. It took him a while to decide on this high-stake venture. In the early part of the war from April to July 2003, he pondered deeply the pros and cons of moving Iraq to center-stage of the al Qaeda confrontation with America.

It was a hard decision. It entailed his giving up direct command of his fighting forces on the ground and placing them under the direct command of Johnny-come-lately Abu Musab al Zarqawi, an outsider to the band which founded, fashioned and formed the sinews of al Qaeda.

Bin Laden saw that Zarqawi would need a helping hand to assemble a winning team. In the second half of 2004, he ordered a worldwide recruitment campaign to bring young jihadis for Iraq, exactly as twenty years before, he spent Saudi and CIA funds on raising an army of young Muslim zealots to drive the Red Army out of Afghanistan.

So fixated was bin Laden on the Iraqi front against the US army, that he was prepared to defend Zarqawi and his methods against long-time companions like his No. 2, the Egyptian Jihad Islami leader Ayman Zahahiri.

The al Qaeda leader was not disappointed in his protégée.

After the Americans killed Zarqawi last June, he counted up his achievements as commander of al Qaeda in Iraq with its affiliates, chiefly Ansar al Islam and Ansar Sunna.

Of the 2,165 American soldiers who died in combat from the start of the Iraq war until Sept. 9, 2006, al Qaeda and its affiliates were responsible for about 1,000 deaths.

John Mueller, Professor of Political Science at Ohio State University, pointed out in the Sept-Oct 2006 issue of Foreign Affairs that the number of Americans who were killed after 9/11 by al Qaeda or al Qaeda-like operatives outside Afghanistan and Iraq "is not much higher than the number who drown in bathtubs in the United States in a single year, and that the lifetime chance of an American being killed by international terrorism is about one in 80,000 – about the same chance as being killed by a comet or meteor."

This opinion exemplifies the way most Americans separate the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq where Americans are under constant assault from al Qaeda from their own immediate reality. The main issue here is not the number of casualties but the fact that it took the US Army three years to eliminate Zarqawi, three critical years which finally made the Iraq war unwinnable.

By now, the level and intensity of terror in Iraq are such that the US army is not only incapable of gaining victory but even of curbing the Iraqi insurgency. American forces no longer control large swatches of the country – and that applies even more to the New Iraqi Army.

And shortly before his death, Zarqawi managed to kindle the flames of sectarian civil war. In no time, the religious violence raging between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims wiped out the last slim chance of establishing in Baghdad a stable federal regime. In the long term, the Shi'ite-Sunni dissent will have a far-reaching impact on the internal cohesion of the entire Muslim world.

In sum, it may be said that George W. Bush's democratic ideal, the fountainhead of his worldview and policy, has not thus far gained the upper hand over al Qaeda's fundamentalist Islamic – terrorist creed; quite the reverse.

And Iraq's volatility is irradiating other parts of the Middle East as well. Islamist terrorist movements had learned from the Iraqi model to use democracy and President Bush's New Middle East vision as leverage to the seats of power in their countries. The ballot box gives their violent, coercive methods the stamp of legitimacy. The Palestinian Hamas was one such example; the Lebanese Hezbollah another.

Counter-terror experts predict that in the post-Zarqawi era, his terrorist movement in Iraq would crumble into splinters which will be soaked up by the larger Sunni guerrilla organizations, at which point al Qaeda will fold its tents in Iraq and move on to new fronts. The United States of America will again rise to the top of bin Laden's targets.

It cannot therefore be said that al Qaeda's threat to America has faded; the menace rather may come back full circle at some time in the future.

In a video marking the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, al Qaeda's No. 2 Ayman Zawahiri told Western leaders they will soon be evicted from the Gulf and face economic doom. As for Israel, al Qaeda's "holy war" is closing in and "your end will put an end to Zionist-crusader supremacy." Zawahiri went on to say the forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are not worth defending; they are doomed to failure. He added cryptically, "new events" are on the way.

Ceremonies took place on Monday across the United States to mark the attacks on New York and Washington which killed almost 3,000 people and triggered the Bush administration's global "war on terror".

On Sunday September 10, 2006, al Qaeda's media arm al-Sahab released a 92-minute video entitled "The Manhattan Raids", showing bin Laden with 9/11 attackers for the first time and the men training in an unidentified location. One image showed Ramzi Bin alshibh. Bin Laden has not been seen on any new videotape since late 2004 although audiotapes were released with his authenticated voice during 2006.

WASHINGTON (AP) – The threat of terrorism against the United States remains chillingly lethal five years after 9/11, and officials predict another massive attack is not a matter of if – but when.

Despite a government overhaul and more than \$250 billion spent to bolster security on airlines, at borders and in seaports, few doubt al Qaeda's intent to strike the US again. That the nation hasn't been hit since Sept. 11, 2001, may say as much about terrorists' patience as it does about steps taken to stop them.

"I know of nobody in the intelligence field who doesn't believe there will be another attack," said Thomas Kean, former New Jersey governor and Republican chair of the 9/11 Commission that investigated the government's security missteps leading up to the 2001 hijackings.

"There's going to be another attack," Kean said. "They just can't tell you when."

In a new age of rapid and widespread ID checks, locked and bulletproof cockpit doors in airliners, armed pilots, tracking foreigners' visas and monitoring Muslim and Arab communities, few expect a precise repeat of the plot that used airline hijackings to bring down big buildings.

The unsettling reality of terrorism, however, is that it is always in search of new ways to accomplish mass death and destruction. And always in search of the weakest link.

Authorities have disrupted a number of high-profile plots, including last month's bombing scare on as many as 10 Britain-to-US flights. The CIA has helped ensnare some 5,000 terror suspects around the world. And the government has imposed hundreds of security measures on foreign visitors and US residents alike, from making travelers take off their shoes at airport checkpoints to eavesdropping on phone and e-mail conversations.

But glaring gaps in the security net remain.

Undercover inspectors testing the nation's security system have repeatedly sneaked weapons through airport checkpoints, entered the country with fake identification and foiled detectors that catch the trace amounts of radiation in kitty litter and bananas, but not always nuclear materials. Air testers to sniff out biological agents are becoming obsolete. And not all port or airline cargo is rigorously inspected.

And, as Hurricane Katrina showed last year, disaster response systems at all levels of government are woefully unprepared for a catastrophe.

“No matter what you do, it’s not enough,” said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-NY, co-chair of a congressional 9/11 caucus. “But the systems we’ve worked hard on to put in place are not working.”

Homeland Insecurity Secretary Michael Chertoff, whose department was created in 2003 as a result of 9/11, points to strides made in sharing intelligence and screening passengers and cargo on flights and at seaports as proof that the country has been made safer without shutting down commerce. Yet he acknowledges more needs to be done in his agency that largely grapples with reacting to past crises while also thinking about what terrorists might try next.

The intelligence community spends a significant amount of time doing what Chertoff described as “putting ourselves in the heads of terrorists – looking at emerging techniques and trying to figure out how terrorists might exploit our systems.”

In one example, Chertoff said, the department last year relaxed its ban on scissors and small innocuous tools from being carried on planes to give inspectors more time to look for explosive devices. Screeners also are now being trained to interpret facial expressions and other behavioral patterns to pick out suspicious travelers.

“We will live with some form of this problem for a very long time,” Chertoff said in an hour-long interview last month wedged between a phone call with British Home Secretary John Reid about the foiled flight plot and a meeting with FEMA director David Paulison about the hurricane season.

Several government-appointed panels – including the 9/11 Commission – have concluded over the last five years that the nation was vastly unprepared for the deadly attacks.

Their findings triggered a massive reshuffling of the government’s counterterrorism missions, the largest since the Defense Department was created in 1947. In addition to merging 22 agencies into the new Homeland Insecurity Department, a new position of intelligence director to oversee the nation’s 16 spy agencies was established.

Congress approved policies such as the USA Patriot Act, allowing more surveillance in counterterrorism investigations. Federal spending on domestic security programs has more than tripled since 2001, to \$55 billion this year, almost equal to what is spent on education.

The results have been mixed. Criticism for Homeland Insecurity has run from sweeping (for cutting emergency responder funding to New York and Washington) to nitpicky (the color-coded threat alert system is too vague to be meaningful).

“Everything the department was supposed to do is still, at best, a work in progress,” said Clark Kent Evin, Homeland Insecurity’s former inspector general.

Meanwhile, the government’s once-greatest target in the war on terror – Osama bin Laden – remains on the loose. Michael Scheuer, the former head of the now-defunct CIA unit dedicating to finding the al-Qaida leader, said catching him now is mostly a matter of luck. “He’s going to have to zig when we zag and we’ll end up in the same place at once,” Scheuer said. (He proved to be right!)

With or without bin Laden, authorities expect al Qaeda’s threat won’t dim in coming years.

Some sympathizers – including small pockets of homegrown Islamic extremists already in the United States – may not even be directly linked to al-Qaida but aim to carry out its mission. Those who make up al Qaeda’s core will wait years, and even decades, for the chance to attack when America least expects it.

“I’m convinced they’re prepared to wait centuries if they have to,” former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said. “They’re looking much longer term than we are. So we have to match their patience with our persistence and our continued focus. We can never let our guard down.” It just points out how hindsight is 20/20.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Provide adequate radio spectrum for first responders

The pending Fiscal Year 2006 budget reconciliation bill would compel the return of the analog TV broadcast (700 Mhz) spectrum, and reserve some for public safety purposes. Both the House and Senate bills contain a 2009 handover date – too distant given the urgency of the threat. A 2007 handover date would make the American people safer sooner.

Establish a unified Incident Command System

Although there is awareness of and some training in the ICS, hurricane Katrina demonstrated the absence of full compliance during a multi-jurisdictional/statewide catastrophe – and its resulting costs.

Allocate homeland security funds based on risk

Congress has still not changed the underlying statutory authority for homeland security grants, or benchmarks to insure that funds are used wisely. As a result, homeland security funds continue to be distributed without regard for risk, vulnerability, or the consequences of an attack, diluting the national security benefits of this important program.

Critical infrastructure risks and vulnerabilities assessment

A draft National Infrastructure Protection Plan (November 2005) spells out a methodology and process for critical infrastructure assessments. No risk and vulnerability assessments actually made; no national priorities established; no recommendations made on allocation of scarce resources. All key decisions are at least a year away. It is time that we stop talking about setting priorities, and actually set some.

Private sector preparedness

National preparedness standards are only beginning to find their way into private sector business practices. Private sector preparedness needs to be a higher priority for DHI and for American businesses.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

National Strategy for Transportation Security

DHI has transmitted its National Strategy for Transportation Security to the Congress. While the strategy reportedly outlines broad objectives, this first version lacks the necessary detail to make it an effective management tool.

Improve airline passenger pre-screening

Few improvements have been made to the existing passenger screening system since right after 9/11. The completion of the testing phase of TSA's pre-screening program for airline passengers has been delayed. A new system, utilizing all names on the consolidated terrorist watch list, is therefore not yet in operation.

Improve airline screening checkpoints to detect explosives

While more advanced screening technology is being developed, Congress needs to provide the funding for, and TSA needs to move as expeditiously as possible with, the appropriate installation of explosives detection trace portals at more of the nation's commercial airports.

Checked bag and cargo screening

Improvements here have not been made a priority by the Congress or the administration. Progress on implementation of in-line screening has been slow. The main impediment is inadequate funding.

BORDER SECURITY

Better terrorist travel strategy

The first Terrorist Travel Strategy is in development, due to be delivered by December 17, 2005 as required by PL 108-458.

Comprehensive screening system

We still do not have a comprehensive screening system. Although agencies are moving ahead on individual screening projects, there is lack of progress on coordination between agencies. DHI' new Screening Coordination Office still needs to establish and implement goals for resolving differences in biometric and traveler systems, credentialing and identification standards.

Biometric entry-exit screening system

The US-VISIT system is running at 115 airports and 15 seaports, and is performing secondary screening at the 50 busiest land borders. But border screening systems are not yet employed at all land borders, nor are these systems interoperable. The exit component of the US-VISIT system has not been widely deployed.

International collaboration on borders and document security

There has been some good collaboration between US-VISIT and Interpol, but little progress elsewhere. There has been no systematic diplomatic effort to share terrorist watch lists, nor has Congress taken a leadership role in passport security.

Standardize secure identifications

The REAL ID Act has established by statute standards for state-issued IDs acceptable for federal purposes, though states' compliance needs to be closely monitored. New standards for issuing birth certificates (required by law by December 17, 2005) are delayed until at least spring 2006, probably longer. Without movement on the birth certificate issue, state-issued IDs are still not secure.

Part II: Reforming the Institutions of Government

THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Director of National Intelligence

The framework for the DNI and his authorities are in place. Now his challenge is to exercise his authorities boldly to smash stovepipes, drive reform, and create a unity of effort—and act soon. He must avoid layering of the bureaucracy and focus on transformation of the Intelligence Community. The success of this office will require decisive leadership from the DNI and the president, and active oversight by the Congress.

National Counterterrorism Center

Shared analysis and evaluation of threat information is in progress; joint operational planning is beginning. But the NCTC does not yet have sufficient resources or personnel to fulfill its intelligence and planning role.

Create FBI national security workforce

Progress is being made—but it is too slow. The FBI's shift to a counterterrorism posture is far from institutionalized, and significant deficiencies remain. Reforms are at risk from inertia and complacency; they must be accelerated, or they will fail. Unless there is improvement in a reasonable period of time, Congress will have to look at alternatives.

New missions for CIA Director

Reforms are underway at the CIA, especially of human intelligence operations. But their outcome is yet to be seen. If the CIA is to remain an effective arm of national power, Congress and CIA leadership need to be committed to accelerating the pace of reforms, and must address morale and personnel issues.

Incentives for information sharing

Changes in incentives, in favor of information sharing, have been minimal. The office of the program manager for information sharing is still a start-up, and is not getting the support it needs from the highest levels of government. There remain many complaints about lack of information sharing between federal authorities and state and local level officials.

Government-wide information sharing

Designating individuals to be in charge of information sharing is not enough. They need resources, active presidential backing, policies and procedures in place that compel sharing, and systems of performance evaluation that appraise personnel on how they carry out information sharing.

Homeland airspace defense

Situational awareness and sharing of information has improved. But it is not routine or comprehensive, no single agency currently leads the interagency response to airspace violations, and there is no overarching plan to secure airspace outside the National Capital region.

CIVIL LIBERTIES AND EXECUTIVE POWER

Balance between security and civil liberties

The debate surrounding reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act has been strong, and concern for civil liberties has been at the heart of it. Robust and continuing oversight, both within the Executive and by the Congress, will be essential.

Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board

We see little urgency in the creation of this Board. The President nominated a Chair and Vice Chair in June 2005, and sent their names to the Senate in late September. To date, the Senate has not confirmed them. Funding is insufficient, no meetings have been held, no staff named, no work plan outlined, no work begun, no office established.

Guidelines for government sharing of personal information

The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board has not yet begun its work. The DNI just named a Civil Liberties Protection Officer (November 2005).

CONGRESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

Intelligence oversight reform

The House and Senate have taken limited positive steps, including the creation of oversight subcommittees. However, the ability of the intelligence committees to perform oversight of the intelligence agencies and account for their performance is still undermined by the power of the Defense Appropriations subcommittees and Armed Services committees.

Homeland Security committees

The House and Senate have taken positive steps, but Secretary Chertoff and his team still report to too many bosses. The House and Senate homeland security committees should have exclusive jurisdiction over all counterterrorism functions of the Department of Homeland Security.

Declassify overall intelligence budget

No action has been taken. The Congress cannot do robust intelligence oversight when funding for intelligence programs is buried within the defense budget. Declassifying the overall intelligence budget would allow for a separate annual intelligence appropriations bill, so that the Congress can judge better how intelligence funds are being spent.

Standardize security clearances

The President put the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in charge of standardizing security clearances. OMB issued a plan to improve the personnel security clearance process in November 2005. The Deputy Director of OMB is committed to its success. All the hard work is ahead.

Part III: Foreign Policy, Public Diplomacy, and Nonproliferation

NONPROLIFERATION

Maximum effort by US government to secure WMD

Countering the greatest threat to America's security is still not the top national security priority of the President and the Congress.

FOREIGN POLICY

Long-term commitment to Afghanistan

Progress has been made, but attacks by Taliban and other extremists continue and the drug situation has worsened. The US and its partners must commit to a long-term economic plan in order to ensure the country's stability.

Support Pakistan against extremists

US assistance to Pakistan has not moved sufficiently beyond security assistance to include significant funding for education efforts. Musharraf has made efforts to take on the threat from extremism, but has not shut down extremist-linked madrassas or terrorist camps. Taliban forces still pass freely across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and operate in Pakistani tribal areas.

Support reform in Saudi Arabia

Saudi authorities have taken initial steps but need to do much more to regulate charities and control the flow of funds to extremist groups, and to promote tolerance and moderation. A US-Saudi strategic dialogue to address topics including reform and exchange programs has just started; there are no results to report.

Identify and prioritize terrorist sanctuaries

Strategies have been articulated to address and eliminate terrorist sanctuaries, but they do not include a useful metric to gauge progress. There is little sign of long-term efforts in place to reduce the conditions that allow the formation of terrorist sanctuaries.

Coalition strategy against Islamist terrorism

Components of a common strategy are evident on a bilateral basis, and multilateral policies exist in some areas. But no permanent contact group of leading governments has yet been established to coordinate a coalition counterterrorism strategy.

Coalition standards for terrorist detention

The US has not engaged in a common coalition approach to developing standards for detention and prosecution of captured terrorists. Indeed, US treatment of detainees has elicited broad criticism, and makes it harder to build the necessary alliances to cooperate effectively with partners in a global war on terror.

Economic policies

There has been measurable progress in reaching agreements on economic reform in the Middle East, including a free trade agreement with Bahrain and the likely admission of Saudi Arabia to the WTO before long. However, it is too early to judge whether these agreements will lead to genuine economic reform.

Vigorous effort against terrorist financing

The US has won the support of key countries in tackling terrorism finance—though there is still much to do in the Gulf States and in South Asia. The government has made significant strides in using terrorism finance as an intelligence tool. However, the State Department and Treasury Department are engaged in unhelpful turf battles, and the overall effort lacks leadership.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Define the US message

Despite efforts to offer a vision for US leadership in the world based on the expansion of democratic governance, public opinion approval ratings for the US throughout the Middle East remain at or near historic lows. Public diplomacy initiatives need to communicate our values, way of life, and vision for the world without lecturing or condescension.

International broadcasting

Budgets for international broadcasting to the Arab and Muslim world and US-sponsored broadcasting hours have increased dramatically, and audience shares are growing. But we need to move beyond audience size, expose listeners to new ideas and accurate information about the US and its policies, and measure the impact and influence of these ideas.

Scholarship, exchange, and library programs

Funding for educational and cultural exchange programs has increased. But more American libraries (Pakistan, for example) are closing rather than opening. The number of young people coming to study in the US from the Middle East continues to decline (down 2% this year, following declines of 9% and 10% in the previous two years).

Support secular education in Muslim countries

An International Youth Opportunity Fund has been authorized, but has received no funding; secular education programs have been initiated across the Arab world, but are not integrated into a broader counterterrorism strategy. The US has no overarching strategy for educational assistance, and the current level of education reform funding is inadequate.

Survival Story – Chapter 26

The Man Who Predicted 9/11 was Rick Rescorla of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, not John O'Neill; O'Neill was *The Man Who Knew*. I just wanted you to keep the good guys straight. Both men died at the WTC on 9/11/01 in WTC2, the south tower. I watched that movie when ABC showed it, I can't see why Clinton was upset, Bush's people looked as inept as his did. I'm talk about the *Path to 9/11*. I'd give it about an 80 on historical accuracy. We all know what happen on that day, most of us watched it on TV. Compare the death toll on 9/11/01 to the death toll at Pearl Harbor, they were pretty close. Rescorla was a natural survivor; he was a subordinate officer to Hal Moore in the Ia Drang Valley. He's the soldier on the cover of Moore and Galloway's book.

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You knew if they killed 3,000 it was just a matter of time until they killed 3 million. The problem with state sponsored terrorism is that the individuals who carry it out aren't allied with the funding state. Al Qaeda is primarily funded by contributions, bin Laden is broke. On the other hand the 1993 bomb they used on the WTC only cost ~\$300 to make, according to the information highway. So now you know why we had WW III, we went after the sponsors instead of the terrorists. Translation: nuke 'em all and let God sort 'em out.

The older I became the more conservative I became, I was lost in the '50s and we ain't talking money. We didn't have squat in the '50s; that came later. We didn't have squat until the big one put our house on the market. We burned through her settlement money and got prepared to a point. And, sometimes, that's all it takes. We don't care for the humidity, but Gassville is a very nice small town and we have our family around us but not living in the same house.

What's more the only thing I've murdered so far is a couple of pickups. The drivers were collateral damage. As we moved from the fall of '08 into winter, I caught another cold and started with the megadose of C, the nebulizer, Benadryl and ephedrine. Before thanksgiving I ended up on oxygen. That frosted me good, you couldn't smoke with the oxygen running. Don't tell anyone I told you, but I was feeling poorly. I have no idea where my energy went.

In desperation, I dug out my diabetic diet books and tried the 6 small meals a day bit. By Thanksgiving I was feeling good enough to sit at the table with the family for Thanksgiving dinner.

"Dear Lord,

We thank you for the blessing of getting us though the past few months and a good harvest. We pray that good Christians everywhere have enough to eat this year. In the name of Jesus, Amen."

“Thank you Derek, that was nice. Everybody dig in before it gets cold.”

“You’re welcome.”

“So tell me, are you home to stay or are you just visiting?”

“I don’t really know. The LT said to hang out until we got orders. Mary said there hadn’t been any more trouble.”

“Not since I put those rounds of Raufoss in the pickups. Are you going to be able to get more or should I hang onto it for emergencies?”

“They’re mostly back to the normal rules, but I’ll see what I can do.”

“I don’t really need much I only fired 3 rounds.”

“How much of the .50 cal do you have?”

“All of but 33 rounds.”

“I can show you or I can write it down for you.”

“You’d better write it down, I might forget.”

“I think I’d better take you to the range, you can’t tell them to hold fire while you read the instruction.”

“Can’t do it today, after I fill my tummy with turkey, I imagine it will be time for a nap.”

“Are you really that feeble or is this just an act?”

“Both. I don’t hear so good, my eyes are gone and I don’t have a lot of strength, but other than that I’m doing just fine. You haven’t said anything about the time you spent in Little Rock, what’s with that?”

“We did a house to house search and collected anything worth keeping. Then the Corp of Engineers came in and bulldozed large sections. Everything was boxed according to the house address and put up in a warehouse.”

“Everything”?”

“Almost. I kept my eyes open for any nice firearms and other things you might want. You’re going to have to wait for Christmas to find out what I found.”

“As long as I don’t need to buy another size of ammo, we’ll be fine.”

“No, you have the ammo so that isn’t a problem.”

“I almost wish you hadn’t told me, I’ll drive myself nuts in the next 5 weeks.”

After that we concentrated on cleaning up as much of the food as we could. After my pie and Cool Whip, I got into a nice soft chair and woke up about 10pm. I missed taking my meds so I got that out of the way, made a turkey sandwich so I wouldn’t go hypoglycemic during the night and crawled into bed.

◦

Aaron was right, it was boring. I didn’t really mind because since becoming progressively disabled, I had gone anywhere or done anything worth mentioning. I got out of the house to keep doctor’s appointments and not much else; until we had the earthquake and moved to Arkansas. It could have been either, but it gave me a new lease on life. I’ll have to admit that buying the M1A and the PT1911 .45 was an awful good start. I ordered high capacity magazines and had them shipped somewhere they were legal and forwarded to me, an old family tradition.

I began giving the PRK the bird long before I left, but leaving was the best decision we’d ever made. We didn’t get many, if any, earthquakes in the Bull Shoals area. Nah, we got nuclear weapons, instead. For the first time in history, I might add and it happened twice. Does that prove the theory that you can run but you can’t hide? We had our three and should have been done. Not so the little town of Gassville, Arkansas. When I mentioned the subject to Sharon, her first thought was tornado; both of us were thinking we had bad weather ahead.

Between Springfield, Missouri and the Arkansas border is a strip extending for most of Missouri border north of Arkansas that averages between 11 and 16 tornadoes per 1,000mi². That was a few miles north, but not that far. It didn’t help having a weather radio either; the NWS was busy trying to get reorganized. Hey, I didn’t start the war and it was only one stinking little war with ~400 warheads, ~424 if you count the terrorist attacks.

Sixteen months after the war, we were well recovered in our area. The main complaints seemed to be we weren’t getting tourists to go bass fishing and most people had to grow their own food. I thought it was great; it’s pretty hard to tell a tourist from a BG just by looking. As I began to recover, I began to get antsy over what I was getting for Christmas.

You know, when you need a tactical wheelchair just to carry your firepower and that includes a Tac-50, a M1A Loaded and a Super Match, 590A1 with bayonet, Mini-14 rifle and 4 handguns plus combat loads for all of the guns, you don’t drive your wheelchair in the snow. And, you don’t wear the guns in the house, Sharon’s rule. When you do have to go to the basement, you leave the wheelchair in the house, grab the Nazi .32 and

walk. I preferred to use my cane and a basket and to wear my nonskid boots with the Vibram soles. All to get a jar of green beans or maybe a bundle of toilet paper.

◦

Yes, it snowed this year too but we didn't get much, just enough to really make a mess. The December climate starts out with highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s. By the time you get to the end of the year, you're looking at a high of 44° and a low of 24° plus about 10" of snow. However, this was snow and the worst of it would come in January.

The kids enjoyed the snow and there were hills around they could use toboggans on. I suppose when I was their age I didn't get either. Now I was wearing a parka in Arkansas in December. I tried one day to call Ronald but the number was disconnected. Later that day, Sharon tried to call Patti but couldn't get through so she tried Charlene and did get through. Charlene told her they hadn't had any radiation in California City, that she knew of. Geoff and his girlfriend were there and Charlene hadn't heard from Shirley or Johnny since before the war.

Sharon told Charlene that the entire family had moved to Gassville and Amy was working for the Police Department as a dispatcher/secretary and Lorrie was working part time as a sign interpreter. She had her hearing aids and could lip read a little, that was self-taught. She had taken a class at AV College before the earthquake to start the steps to become a certified interpreter. She still needed more classes but she was good enough she found part time work.

All of which raised an interesting question and I had to ask, "How are you going to be paid?"

"In cash, that's all they have. They tried to collect gold and silver but they didn't find enough to use it for trade."

"Will we still to be able to use paper money for a while? Or, do we need to see what we can do about acquiring gold and silver, Amy?"

"Acquiring? That's a strange choice of words. What do you plan to do, rob a bank?"

"Right track, wrong train, banks don't have gold and silver. I think it may be more like strategic reallocation. In case you don't know kid, that's salvaging not looting."

"Where are you going to where you can do that?"

"I was thinking of asking Derek where cleanup hasn't started yet. It would need to be a good sized city to find precious metals."

◦

He was hired by New York City station WABC-TV to be a reporter for Eyewitness News. In 1972 he garnered national attention and won an Emmy Award for his report on sexual abuse of mentally retarded patients at Staten Island's Willowbrook State School, and began to appear on ABC national programs such as 20/20.

In 1985 ABC's Roone Arledge refused to air a report he'd done on the relationship between Marilyn Monroe and JFK. He publicly criticized Arledge's journalistic integrity (claiming that his friendship with the Kennedy family had caused him to spike the story) and was fired.

In 1986 he hosted a live two-hour special on the opening of what he called The Mystery of Al Capone's Vault. However, it is more noted for its disappointing denouement: the contents revealed turned out to be a pile of dirt and a bottle of bathtub gin. The program garnered the highest rating of any syndicated special in television history. Nielsen recorded a 34 average rating and 48 average share in eight markets, and an astounding 57 rating and 73 share in the Chicago market.

In 1987 he began hosting a daytime talk show, which was oriented toward controversial guests and theatricality - one of the early shows was titled *Men in Lace Panties and the Women Who Love Them*. His nose was broken in a well-publicized brawl that occurred on a 1988 show with Neo-nazi skinheads, anti-racist skinheads and black and Jewish activists, which sparked Newsweek's characterization of his show as *Trash TV*.

Also in 1987, he hosted the first of a series of special reports in prime time dealing with an alleged epidemic of *Satanic ritual abuse*. He stated: *Estimates are that there are over 1 million Satanists in this country ... The majority of them are linked in a highly organized, very secretive network. From small towns to large cities, they have attracted police and FBI attention to their Satanic ritual sexual child abuse, child pornography and grisly Satanic murders. The odds are that this is happening in your town.* Subsequent to the programs, there were outbreaks of Satanic hysteria in various American cities.

He was noted for self-promotion and for inserting himself into stories: he twice had plastic surgery on his program, and his autobiography *Exposing Myself* caused headlines in 1991 by discussing his sexual dalliances, which included encounters with Bette Midler and Margaret Trudeau.

In 1994 he began hosting a more sedate nightly discussion of the news on cable station CNBC while continuing to host long running show. The show was portrayed in the final episode of Seinfeld, with him as himself reporting on the lengthy trial of the show's four main characters.

In 1997 he contracted with NBC to work as a reporter for 6 years for a fee of \$30 million. During 1998 and 1999, he extensively covered the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. Following the 9/11 Terrorist Attack, he accepted a pay cut and went to work for the Fox News Channel as a war correspondent starting in November 2001.

And, some people think I don't like him... that isn't true, substitute despise and you're getting warm. It's his behavior I don't like, I have nothing against the man personally, the closed I've been to him is 600 yards (in my stories).

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"You want to know what?"

"I need a list of large cities within 24 hour's drive that were nuked."

"How large a radius is that?"

"Let's say less than 750 miles."

"Why do you want to go there?"

"Salvage operations."

"We're in pretty good shape, what do you want to salvage?"

"Precious metals."

"Do I include really large cities, like Chicago on the list or just cities under a quarter million?"

"I'm not sure, have you heard of any places that were evacuated or didn't have any survivors?"

"No, I haven't."

◦

IN THE SUMMER of 2000, Russian President Vladimir V. Putin told me a story that I have been unable to get out of my mind. We were meeting in the Kremlin, and I raised the grave danger facing the world from the transfer of missile technology and nuclear material to the Iranians. In Putin's view, however, the real danger came not from an Iranian nuclear-tipped missile or, for that matter, from the lethal arsenal of any nation-state.

"Imagine a sunny and beautiful day in a suburb of Manhattan," he said. "An elderly man is tending to the roses in his small garden with his nephew visiting from Europe. Life seems perfectly normal. The following day, the nephew, carrying a suitcase, takes a train to Manhattan. Inside the suitcase is a nuclear bomb."

The threat, Putin explained to me a year before 9/11, was not from this or that country but from their terrorist proxies – aided and supported quietly by a sovereign state that doesn't want to get its hands dirty – who will perpetrate their attacks without a return address. This scenario became real when Al Qaeda plotted its 9/11 attacks from within Afghanistan and received support from the Taliban government. Then it happened again this summer, when Iran was allowed to wage a proxy war through Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and northern Israel. But this time, the international community's weak response dealt the global war on terror a severe blow.

Five years ago, after 9/11, such a lack of culpability seemed inconceivable. That was when President Bush abandoned the conventional approach to fighting terror by vowing that the United States would henceforth make no distinction between terrorists and regimes that support them. You are either with us or you are with the terrorists.

In the pre-9/11 world, regimes were rarely held responsible for the actions of terror groups. Now the Taliban regime was being held accountable.

This was critically important for two reasons. First, it recognized that international terrorism relies on the support of sovereign states. It is regimes, after all, that give terror groups territory on which to train, arm and indoctrinate their members, and regimes that provide them critical financial, diplomatic, logistical and intelligence support.

Second, although shadowy terror cells are difficult to eradicate fully and suicidal fanatics impossible to deter, the regimes that support terror groups do have a return address and are rarely suicidal. Thus, holding the Taliban responsible for the actions of Al Qaeda, and elevating the logic for doing so to a central principle in the war on terror, greatly enhanced deterrence. Every single regime was immediately put on notice.

Fast forward five years. Hezbollah launches an unprovoked attack on Israel. It is clear that Hezbollah is a proxy of Iran. It is public knowledge that Hezbollah receives more than \$100 million a year from the Iranian regime, as well as sophisticated weapons and training.

Yet Iran has paid no price for its proxy's actions. No military strikes on Iranian targets, no sanctions and no threat whatsoever to Iranian interests. On the contrary, in the wake of the war, there have been renewed calls in the democratic world to "engage" Iran.

Symptomatic of the moral myopia in the West is a farce worthy of Orwell: Former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, under whom students were tortured after a 1999 crackdown at Tehran University and whose rule was marked by the continued stifling of dissent, spoke Sunday at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government on "Ethics of Tolerance in the Age of Violence."

The Iranian regime's intentions are clear. It calls for "wiping Israel off the map" and tells its followers to "imagine a world without America." It seeks to dominate the Middle East. By failing to hold Iran accountable for its brazen support of Hezbollah, the free world

has undermined a central pillar in the war on terror and given the Iranian regime a huge weapon for achieving its ambitions. Now the mullahs know they can attack a democratic country with impunity.

Considering the apocalyptic fanaticism of Iran's leader, it is an open question whether the current regime in Tehran is capable of being deterred through the threat of mutually assured destruction. But given how the world has responded to Hezbollah, the point may be academic. For surely Iran would be better served by using proxies to wage a nuclear war against Israel. And if there is no accountability, why stop with Israel?

The road to a suitcase bomb in Tel Aviv, Paris or New York just got a whole lot shorter.
– NATAN SHARANSKY is a former deputy prime minister of Israel and currently a member of parliament for the opposition Likud Party

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"Your brother didn't know anywhere we might be able to go to salvage gold and silver."

"He's such a Boy Scout; he wouldn't tell you if he knew."

"The US Mint has a list of dealers for their coins on their website. I copied it into a document file and converted it to a pdf file a few years back. I'll have to look on my computer and see if I can find the file. I can print it out and we can locate the dealers within a one day radius."

"You do know that if they have the coins on hand, they'll be locked up tight. They probably have safes that you need a crane to lift. How do you propose to break into the safes?"

"Let the Good Times roll."

"Huh?"

"Dy-No-mite!"

"Do you have any dynamite?"

"No."

"Do you even know how to use dynamite?"

"No. Look, I don't think we're talking about a bank vault here, probably just a large floor safe weighing a few tons. A large dealer might have a walk in safe, but I don't really know if we'll find a large dealer."

"But, you have a list of names?"

“It’s a start.”

“So, maybe Springfield, Kansas City, Des Moines, St. Louis, Memphis, Nashville, Little Rock, Topeka, Wichita, Omaha and Dallas?”

“Forget Des Moines, if there was a coin dealer there, he’d be small time.”

There are actual 3 coin dealers in Des Moines, one in the Insurance Exchange and two on West Hickman Road. I only know because Damon came to me with a phone book and showed me the Des Moines Yellow pages. I’m not big on slapping my forehead when I realize that I’ve messed up, so I didn’t. When Derek was storing those things in the Armory, his stash included some C-4. He took all that stuff with him, but he should have checked to boxes closer. Damon hadn’t asked me if I had C-4, so it wasn’t like I lied to him. I didn’t know how to use C-4 either, but I assumed you inserted the detonator and set it off. Blowing yourself up may be rocket science, but it’s not exclusively in that domain.

I was assuming we could use the C-4 in a shaped charge to ‘punch’ the safe and access the inner door workings. Big assumption, I’ve never seen the inside of a safe door before. There were probably hundreds of squirrels who’d tell me how wrong I was if I wrote a story and did that. This was like Butch and Sundance; it was metal coin, not paper money.

“What are we going to do for food on this trip?”

“Back in Palmdale after the earthquake, Ron and I got a few cases of MREs from the National Guard. They should be good; I stored them in the Armory.”

“What are we going to do for fuel?”

“We’ll take 3 drums of gas, that’s about the weight limit on the truck.”

“Do you really think we’ll find any gold or silver?”

“Son, I really don’t know. It wouldn’t take much, not with gold probably running over \$1,000 an ounce and silver at least \$20 an ounce. It varies from time to time, but gold and silver usually trade at prices where the price of gold is between 50 to 55 times the price of silver. Last time I looked, it was trading at 53 times the price.”

“When was that?”

“Maybe mid ‘06. Right after the price run up in gold, maybe around early September.”

“At \$1,000 an ounce, that would make gold worth \$12,000 a pound; jeez, I see what you mean. It would take about 50 pounds of silver to equal a pound of gold.”

“Did you get an A in math?”

“What are we taking with us on the trip for protection?”

“You can take your pistol, shotgun and the Thumper. I’ll take my 1911, M1A and the Tac-50. If that isn’t enough, tough. I think maybe a standard combat load out for each weapon and a couple of backups; I don’t want to get in a fight if we can avoid it.”

“Are you taking your heavy duty wheelchair?”

“Nah, it would take up space and I’d rather have the weight allowance for any valuables we find. I’ve been working out, you know. I can pick up a case of paper so I think I can handle the heavy guns. That Tac-50 is pretty much a crew served weapon anyway.”

“We could take Aaron with us to help you out.”

“What about school?”

“He’s on extended Christmas vacation. School won’t start back up until the second week of January.”

And that’s how we ended up on the trip to recover precious metals. It was probably the most fun I ever had in my life, but more than once, I came close to wetting myself.

Survival Story – Chapter 27

I'll bet you thought I was going to describe the trip. Sorry, but that would be telling. Since a person can't eat metal, recovering gold and silver comes a bit too close to looting to suit me. I'd prefer to look upon it as aiding the local economy by adding precious metals to the mix of paper money. The local bank could accumulate the metal and use it to back up the paper money. I'll summarize for you.

First off, Damon did the driving and Aaron sat in the middle. He was the other half of my team and carried the heavy stuff. He brought his 9mm and Bushmaster with the same combat ammo loads. We headed to Springfield because it was the closest city. I had my Arkansas ID Card, my Passport and my Medicare card for identification. Damon had his Iowa Driver's License and Aaron his Iowa Learner's Permit.

Springfield Coins & Stamps was the coin dealer there and they were closed. They were good for 1 pound of gold and 15 pounds of silver. After that, we hit several dealers in Kansas and came up short, only recovering 3 pounds of gold and 12 pounds of silver. Next, we tried Kansas City. I don't really know if we were in Kansas or Missouri, but probably Missouri.

After that, we went to Nebraska, checking out Omaha and Grand Island. There were 3 places and we ended up with an additional 6 pounds of gold and 40 pounds of silver. Up to this time, we hadn't had trouble. Driving across Iowa on I-80, Damon let Aaron drive. He thought, and I agreed, that the likelihood of an Iowa State Trooper being on the road handing out tickets was nigh on impossible. Nevertheless, Aaron got pulled over.

"License, registration and insurance please."

"I was only going 55."

"This is a learner's permit, I have to see an Iowa License."

"That's me," Damon replied handing over his license. "Why did you stop us, Aaron wasn't speeding."

"We're stopping all vehicles and getting ID. Excuse me, Sir could I see you ID please?"

"Dad, he needs your ID card."

I dug it out and passed it over.

"Not from Iowa, are you."

"The hell you say. I graduated from Charles City High in '61, Wartburg in '70 and Drake in '72. I worked for the Iowa Department of Revenue for 19 years. Doesn't matter anyway, I'm an American and I don't recall repealing the Constitution."

“What are you doing here?”

“Who me? I’m riding along. Damon and Aaron are headed back to Britt. We’re all that’s left of the family. Thank God they rescued me.”

“I’d recommend you men avoid Des Moines, it’s a disaster area. You can skirt it and go north on highway 69.”

“Ames?” Damon asked. “My uncle Jerry is a Detective Sergeant with the Ames Police Department.”

“You’d better check with him when you go through Ames, then. Please continue to drive carefully,” the Trooper said returning our IDs.

West of Des Moines, we got off I-80 and headed north on R22 to Waukee. There, we turned east on US 6, aka Hickman Road. As we got closer to Urbandale, I was lost. When I lived in Des Moines, all this area was fields, not residential housing and business firms. About the only thing on west Hickman Road was K-Mart and it had been built in what was, at the time, a field.

“Maybe we should just look at the 2 places on west Hickman and avoid the other 2 places altogether, they’re both close to downtown.”

“Whatever you suggest Damon, I’m lost.”

“Didn’t you live on Hickman Road at once time?”

“Yes, 5106. I think we may have lived there when you were born, I can’t remember.”

“But you moved, right?”

“Yes, to Easton Place and from there to 5460 Merced Street. I think we lived on Merced Street when Derek was born. That’s where we had you big train set.”

“I sort of remember.”

“I’m trying to forget.”

From there, we went to Davenport, St. Louis and several places I’d never been before. It had been creepy being in Des Moines. The last time I could recall being there was when I drove through on I-35 back in 2001 to attend my father’s funeral. I had never been back since. Most of the people I’d worked with at the IDR had retired by ‘06. Had I stayed with them and not had health issues, I’d have retire in September of ‘03. My pension would have been 3 or 4 times as much. Damon and I hadn’t gone near Des

Moines on our trip to Charles City. We returned on December 24th, I didn't want to miss Christmas and was dying to learn what Derek had to give me.

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"How did you make out?"

"Not as well as I'd hoped, Derek. We ended up with 12 pounds of gold and 100 pounds of silver coins. I was doing the math in my head and that's 144 ounces of gold that's probably worth about \$1,200 an ounce. If you figure the silver at \$24 an ounce, the combined total is about \$200,000 give or take."

"Did you have any trouble?"

"Got the creeps a couple of times. The only human contact we had the entire trip was an Iowa State Trooper west of Des Moines on I-80. He wanted to see some ID."

"What kind of coins did you get?"

"All US mint Eagles, 1, 0.5, 0.25 and 0.10 ounce gold and 1 ounce silver. Oh, and a few rolls of pre-65 90% silver coins, most dimes and quarters."

"We won't have to work so hard now. This will allow us to buy what we need," Damon added.

"Wrong. We have to do everything in our power to get through this. For all we know, we'll get hit by a tornado in the spring. Ask Derek, Damon, he knows. We have the right mindset and many of the supplies we'll need. No doubt others have some things we need and don't have. We can either barter with them or use the gold and silver we found to buy them, assuming they're will to part with them. We just spent a lot of time on the road salvaging that gold and silver and we used up what plastic explosive I took from Derek to open those safes."

"Sorry."

"Forget it. I once read that it takes much more than the knowledge and skills to build shelters, get food, make fires, and travel without the aid of standard navigational devices to live successfully through a survival situation. Some people with little or no survival training have managed to survive life-threatening circumstances. Some people with survival training have not used their skills and died. A key ingredient in any survival situation is the mental attitude of the individual(s) involved. Having survival skills is important; having the will to survive is essential. Without a desire to survive, acquired skills serve little purpose and invaluable knowledge goes to waste.

"There is a psychology to survival. The soldier in a survival environment faces many stresses that ultimately impact on his mind. These stresses can produce thoughts and

emotions that, if poorly understood, can transform a confident, well-trained soldier into an indecisive, ineffective individual with questionable ability to survive. Thus, every soldier must be aware of and be able to recognize those stresses commonly associated with survival. Additionally, it is imperative that soldiers be aware of their reactions to the wide variety of stresses associated with survival. This chapter will identify and explain the nature of stress, the stresses of survival, and those internal reactions soldiers will naturally experience when faced with the stresses of a real-world survival situation. The knowledge you, the soldier, gain from this chapter and other chapters in this manual, will prepare you to come through the toughest times alive.” Army FM 21-76 (Survival)

“Did you memorize that?”

“Not really, but you need some guiding principle to get you beyond what we’ve been through. I might have gotten a few words wrong, but you get the general idea. There’s more to survival than living through the disaster or attack. Surviving is what comes after, otherwise, why bother?”

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After I surmised that Derek took his older brother in tow and explained what he’d seen when he’d been activated after the war. I asked him about it and he avoided the question just like he did when he got back from Iraq. Both times it appeared at first that he might say something and both times, he paused and said he couldn’t tell me. As a kid in Iowa I tried to ask WW II and Korean vets about their experiences and most just wanted not to think about it. I had been born just at the right time and avoided Vietnam because of circumstances. Occasionally it bothered me to point out I was a Vietnam era vet with the attached benefits. He was able to put me off on Iraq claiming it was classified and about post WW III because he said he couldn’t stand to talk about.

I had all but given up following the news before the earthquake; it was bad and getting worse. I knew it was just a matter of time, but I didn’t expect the prequel, that earthquake. The terrorist attack came as no particular surprise; they were late, perhaps due to our increased homeland security. It got so a person could predict what would be in the paper the next day, brinksmanship on a grand scale.

We eased our way through the winter of ‘08-’09. I was admiring the presents Derek had come up with. The first one was a pair of knives, a Randall model 2 stiletto with a 7” blade and the second a Randall model 12 Raymond Thorpe Bowie. The third present was a Marlin rifle, model 1895 Cowboy, complete with a scabbard and 500 rounds of Buffalo Bore 405gr FNL .45-70.

We got maybe 16” of snow, more than normal but not significant. It made the kids very happy; they spent their free time sliding down the hill. Britney had met a boy she liked and had talked to her Dad about the possibility of getting married when they finished High School. He was grouching to me about her growing up too fast. I didn’t know what to say, she’d be 18 come September, this was her last year of school.

The gold and silver we garnered on the long road trip was stored in the Armory. As needs arose, I shared it with the family, it not like we had a lot. More than most folks in Gassville, but they could have done the same thing Damon, Aaron and I had done. I had long since concluded that it would be 2 or 3 generations, if ever, before the country got back to normal. If it got back to what was normal before the country started, I hoped it never got back to normal.

Fathers had come home from WW II and we had the baby boom. The boomers were generally spoiled by grateful parents because after the war the economy was so much better. Then the kids had kids and spoiled them all the more. Morality was on a downslide for much of the county as was patriotism. We had 300 million people and 40 million of them were probably illegal aliens from somewhere.

We were a nation of immigrants so it's a complicated discussion when it comes to immigrants. As long as the immigrants were here legally, it wasn't much of a problem. Our porous borders had forced us to offer amnesty more than once just to clear the slate. We might not have a problem with the Country of Mexico for a while because of our little get together on the border, but the conditions in Mexico that had encouraged so many of them to come here hadn't changed. The terrorists had no doubt taken advantage of those borders to bring in some of the bombs.

I wasn't the best practicing Christian around, I didn't like to attend church, a bias I developed in my youth. As I grew older, I examined many religions and decided what I had was just fine. Maybe it was John 3:16 that drove the point home for me. In terms of violating the 10 Commandments, I'd probably broken $\frac{2}{3}$ of them over the course of my life, but not the important ones, 1 & 2. Plus I'd finally cleaned up my act, late, but I did it. In truth, I had a bad attitude when it came to the various denominations. As far as I was concerned, there was one denomination in the Christian faith – Christian. That's probably why I didn't discuss religion a lot in my stories except to empathize that my particular domination was Methodist. We all read the same Bible. Perhaps when we get older and have experienced life and all of its sides, we get closer to our Creator.

One thing I got from what had happened was that most times we couldn't blame God for what had happened, we did it to ourselves. The attacks and the war had solved some of our problems, only to create others.

Cogito, ergo sum – René Descartes (I think, therefore, I am)

Existentialism is a philosophical movement that is generally considered a study that pursues meaning in existence and seeks value for the existing individual. Existentialism, unlike other fields of philosophy, does not treat the individual as a concept, and values individual subjectivity over objectivity. As a result, questions regarding the meaning of life and subjective experience are seen as being of paramount importance, above all other scientific and philosophical pursuits.

There are several philosophical positions all related to existential philosophy but the main identifiable common proposition, is that existence precedes essence. By this, existentialism states that man exists and in that existence man defines himself and the world in his own subjectivity, and wanders between choice, freedom, and existential angst. Existentialism often is associated with anxiety, dread, awareness of death, and freedom. Famous existentialists include Sartre, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Camus, and de Beauvoir.

Existentialism emphasizes action, freedom, and decision as fundamental to human existence and is fundamentally opposed to the rationalist tradition and to positivism. That is, it argues against definitions of human beings either as primarily rational, knowing beings who relate to reality primarily as an object of knowledge, or for whom action can or ought to be regulated by rational principles, or as beings who can be defined in terms of their behavior as it looks to or is studied by others. More generally it rejects all of the Western rationalist definitions of being in terms of a rational principle or essence or as the most general feature that all existing things share in common. Existentialism tends to view human beings as subjects in an indifferent, objective, often ambiguous, and “absurd” universe in which meaning is not provided by the natural order, but rather can be created, however provisionally and unstably, by human beings’ actions and interpretations.

Existential themes have been hinted at throughout the history of western philosophy, including Socrates and his life, the Bible in the Book of Ecclesiastes and the Book of Job, Saint Augustine in his ‘Confessions’, and Descartes’ ‘Meditations’. It was reflected in song:

*To everything, turn, turn, turn
There is a season, turn, turn, turn
And a time for every purpose under heaven*

*A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep*

*A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones
A time to gather stones together*

*A time of love, a time of hate
A time of war, a time of peace
A time you may embrace
A time to refrain from embracing*

A time to gain, a time to lose

*A time to rend, a time to sew
A time of love, a time of hate
A time of peace, I swear it's not too late*

The Byrds – based on Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, written by Pete Seeger (song, not the Book)

I may be an Existentialist, but I don't really know. I do believe in God and the Trinity. The one question I'll admit I've never asked God is, "Why me?" Maybe because I was afraid of the answer. IF God made a mistake, it was in giving mankind free will. Perhaps free will was God's method of population control. It worked very well, we got to 6 billion plus people before another round of free will reduced the population to the carrying capacity of the land, worldwide maybe half, but who knows for sure.

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"Did we harvest seeds this year so we could plant next year?" I asked.

"Yes, of course, dear. It wasn't easy either. We even planted some of those pinto beans and they grew. Does that mean they were an heirloom variety?"

"If you plant the beans you got this year and get the same crop, probably yes. I've never farmed, I just lived on a farm and was associated with a lot of farmers in my early days."

"At least we're out of California. If we were still in Palmdale, I hate to think what it would be like."

"The humidity would be lower and the temperature higher. We might not have snow on the ground and I'd probably be out of ammo, assuming 'they' hadn't already killed me."

"What do you intend to use that new rifle for?"

"Balancing out the wheelchair; I don't really know, but it's a nice rifle."

"What's so special about those knives?"

"Other than I got them for free? They're Randall made knives from Orlando, Florida. Each one is handmade and if you could order one, the waiting list was 5 years long."

"They had them in Solvang, if I remember right. You stood in front of that case and drooled. Why didn't you buy one then?"

"He wanted about \$100 more than the MSRP. For the same money, I got the 3 Rambo knives. Say, now that I have a Bowie and a stiletto, do you want Rambo I?"

"Put it on my gun belt, Gary. I don't wear that either."

As time had passed, the cities had gotten slack about their security. For that matter, so had we. Because the 3 communities hadn't experienced any physical damage, just deaths, and perhaps because we hadn't seen many BGs, many folks concluded we never would. I was unconvinced of that but I wasn't going to sit on the deck when it was really cold out. The view I had from inside the house wasn't the greatest either. The study was on the front side of the house and my den was on the backside. In a couple of weeks, would be the 2nd Anniversary of the earthquake. I needed to get Sharon something for Valentine's Day, but the stores didn't have any candy.

Although I'd recommend anyone in our situation to get on the interstates and look for trucks filled with supplies, the idea wasn't unique to me. The locals did that without anyone even suggesting it. Between the loss of population and the trucks they found, the 3 communities and even Yellville had enough food and supplies, for now. Yellville was about 7 miles southwest of Flippin on 412.

The Days After September 12, 2006

The inspired prophecies show that the world will experience nuclear war in and around the great river Euphrates that will involve two great armies and kill a third part of man over a fourth part of the earth.

The days following September 12, 2006 will be filled with fear of reprisal and more nuclear destruction. The cause of war and fighting will still remain; as long as the cause remains so will the threat of war. The cause is plainly shown in the inspired prophecies from Genesis to Revelation.

The Prophet Isayah was inspired to write that the cause of what we see taking place now in 2006, which will grow much worse in 2007, is the breaking of Yahweh Laws.

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Isayah 24:1-6 –

1 Before Yahweh's very eyes, the earth is made empty and it is made waste; the face of it is perverted and its inhabitants scattered abroad;

2 And it will be: as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his owner; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with him who takes usury, so with him who gives usury to him:

3 The land will be utterly emptied and utterly plundered, for it has come to pass that this judgment has been pronounced.

4 The earth mourns and fades away, the world mourns and fades away, and the haughty people of the earth languish.

5 The earth also is defiled because of the inhabitants of it, for they have transgressed the Laws, changed the ordinance, and broken the everlasting covenant.

6 Because of this, the curse has devoured the earth, and they who dwell therein are desolate; therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

I know that what follows will sound strange to most of you but I beg you to study all of this information very closely, and then make your judgment. Deception is sometimes hard to understand when one is raised in it. One tends to draw their conclusion based on what they have been taught by a religious leader whom they trust.

Because they changed the Laws of Yahweh that were written to guide us to perfect health, peace and joy, the curse has been laid on all of mankind, the earth is defiled and nuclear wars are coming that will leave few survivors.

In commenting on what the inspired prophets wrote for this time period, the Savior gave a scenario of what we can look for. The final picture of the events we are heading into is given in the Book of Revelation. Notice the severity of what we will experience in the next thirteen months.

Mattithyah 24:21-22 –

21 For then will be great tribulation, such as has not come to pass since the beginning of the world to this time – no, nor ever will be.

22 And unless those days were shortened, there would no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake, those days will be shortened.

From what the Savior says here we see that everything shown in this chapter will be the worst ever in the history of mankind. Deception is the first thing the Savior warns us about (Mattithyah 24:4-5). Remember, this will be the worst ever. Looking at the activities of the nations, we see distinct signs of deception.

Remember, for this time period these things will be the worst ever. If mankind continues to follow this pattern, which he will, it is obvious that in the next thirteen months the de-

ception and hatred will become worse, and the love will grow colder, which will lead to the final nuclear wars that will darken the sun.

If you come out from among these deceiving religions and be separate, repent and convert to walking in Yahweh's Way, you will understand what is coming and can prepare yourself and your family. If you do not, you will surely perish with them.

Or, so said The House of Yahweh who went into a shelter on 9/13/06 for a year. They must have been awfully surprised when they came out about 2 days after the war. All of their food was gone but Africa hadn't been attacked anyway, except for Egypt and Libya. They were probably ok as long as they didn't listen to Red Hot Chili Peppers music. I had listened to part of one song and I'd have told the CIA anything they wanted to know, even if I had to make stuff up, including and limited to my name, rank serial number and date of birth.

I'm a big fan of that Dragon Skin Body Armor. I think I should start the next chapter off with the final results of the tests conducted by the National Institute of Justice.

Because I brought up the possibility of a third disaster for the folks in Arkansas, I was doing research on my computer. I had material I downloaded from ABC news, and my file on Yellowstone. I searched using the term asteroid and it brought up was some of my stories. They were written on my old computer and I lost all of the reference files. If the asteroid were big, it wouldn't matter because we'd all be dead. Unless we could get Bruce Willis to do a suicide mission.

The idea espoused by those movies probably wouldn't work anyway; the asteroid would still hit us, just in smaller pieces. I think I saw that either on Discovery or National Geographic Channel. Or, was it the History Channel? After considering all of the possibilities, I concluded that the odds favored a tornado, the last great big rock was 65 million years ago and Yellowstone was 640,000 years ago. On top of that, the USGS had suggested that Yellowstone might not blow at all. If a really bad, as in Category 6, Hurricane hit the coast, all we'd get in northern Arkansas would be a very bad storm.

I didn't believe the show Last Days, probably because I hadn't seen it. All ABC did was summarize stuff that had been on cable anyway. I'd never seen a story that said The Terminator could really happen. The Forbin Project was probably more correct than Terminator.

Survival Story – Chapter 28

09-13-2006

Dragon Skin Passes Dept. Of Justice Ballistic Tests

Panic is rampant today inside one sector of the Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex (MICC) as word spreads that Pinnacle Armor's Dragon Skin flexible body armor passed the ballistic tests conducted Monday and Tuesday at United States Test Laboratory in Wichita, Kansas, on behalf of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Formal certification by NIJ of Dragon Skin for Level III protection is expected within the next few weeks.

Unlike the buggy-whip manufacturers who tried to ignore the foreseeable consequences the internal combustion engine would have on their products, the rigid ballistic-protective plate manufacturers fully comprehend the probable results of NIJ's certification. They will no doubt redouble their efforts to keep Congress from asking the tough questions about Army and Marine Corps fraudulent misrepresentations on this issue of life-or-death importance: What is the best-available body armor that our troops should be wearing?

When queried by Defense Watch about Monday's NIJ test, Murray Neal, President of Pinnacle Armor provided this statement:

"We have been working with the NIJ personnel in an aid to their establishing a test protocol and procedure for flexible rifle defeating body armor systems. We are pleased that it has come to fruition and that we have the first and only flexible rifle defeating armor to receive that certification. This is truly a milestone event for law enforcement and military personnel who have been looking for that validation. It has been a long 5 year process. Dragon Skin body armor does substantially enhance the protection capabilities of rifle defeating body armor with less trauma to the body, increased ballistic and multiple repeat hit capabilities, combined with flexibility and coverage options up to a full torso wrap for both males and females. Our mission has been and will always be, to provide the best armor that technology can provide for the survivability and protection for those who protect us."

A former President of Point Blank Body Armor, Inc., James Magee, Colonel, USMC (Ret.), had this to say when informed of the NIJ test results, "If Dragon Skin is NIJ certified for Level III protection, it will be the only body armor in the world that doesn't require augmentation with additional plates to achieve this level of ballistic protection."

The potential consequences of NIJ certifying Pinnacle Armor's Dragon Skin cannot be overstated. In an earlier interview, Magee said that if DOD were to ever decide to make Dragon Skin its standard-issue body armor, due to some event like NIJ certification, "... of 23 body armor companies in the US, 18 would go away and the remaining 5 largest would either buy Pinnacle Armor, or buy licenses to produce Dragon Skin."

In this same interview, Magee said, “Dragon Skin is hands down, the best body armor out there by two generations.” His view has now gained crucial, independent confirmation as a result of this week’s test results.

Another industry source, and a current competitor of Dragon Skin, reminded Defense Watch that the Army’s procurement system had spent millions of dollars over the past three decades on body armor, and yet “all the technology in Interceptor [Body Armor design] today existed in the early 1970’s.”

He went on to say, “NIJ has set the standard for bullet penetrations, and [Pinnacle Armor] has met the NIJ standards. Dragon Skin has fulfilled very rigorous standards of performance. The Army has never set up a standard, but uses the NIJ standard when convenient, then switches when it chooses to. Trying to get a handle on the Army standard is like trying to grab an eel... Passing the NIJ test preempts anything the Army is thinking about.”

America’s Grunts finally have the unimpeachable results of an honest test of Dragon Skin conducted away from the corrupting influence of the US Army’s acquisition mafia, particularly James Zhang, Steve Pinter, Karl Masters and their ilk.

Given previous mendacious statement by four staff members of the House Armed Services Committee, the Army procurement capos will continue to be aided and abetted by their congressional lackeys in their efforts to keep billions of DOD dollars going to favored producers of the clearly inferior Interceptor Body Armor.

Proving once again that the lives and limbs of American Grunts mean nothing inside the Beltway when weighed against protecting the financial interests of powerful elements within the Military Industrial Congressional Complex.

Note: Corrupt elements within Army acquisition will no doubt point out that the NIJ tests did not include all the components in a DOD First Article Test (FAT), such as environmental tests. These shysters will ignore that in the second of two ballistic tests of Dragon Skin in 2006, but not controlled or directed by Natick/PEO-Soldier mafia, Dragon Skin has again passed. The first such successful test was the February 13 test on behalf of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations conducted by the Army Aberdeen Test Center.

It would be awfully nice if we could find some of that Dragon Skin. Unfortunately, we should have gotten that before we left California, the company was located in Fresno and it was highly unlikely that they were still there. The best time to have done that was just before we left Palmdale for the last time. The Interceptor Body Armor Derek could get was heavy, especially when you added the plates. The other thing I didn’t like about it was you had to replace the ceramic plates if you were shot.

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It was getting harder for me to move around, primarily to the osteoarthritis. In early '06, I finished wearing out my left rotor cuff. By the time we had the earthquake the right shoulder was going too. I can give you a clue on how to determine if your bones are wearing out. Rotate the joint slowly and listen carefully. If you hear a series of bump and grinds, you have a calcium build up. With enough exercise you can eliminate the smaller pieces of calcium to make the joint operate smoother, a trick I learned from a gal who was into yoga.

My favorite OTC medicine to use was Icy Hot 16%. We had several rollers on the shelf and I think everyone in the family had, at one time or another, used it to relieve the muscle pain. It's sort of like gel Ben Gay and it gets very hot, especially if you rub it in. We generally used exam gloves so the person applying it didn't get it on his/her hands.

When Sharon first presented her shopping list in mid '06, we sat down and talked it over. I had my own list and we combined them and even added a few things from the list xoruss sent me. The most important rule is to only buy things you eat regularly, otherwise they're just taking up space on your shelves. I like Dinty Moore beef stew, but we didn't buy it because no one else did. Hormel, the packer, had a full line of products: Beef Stew, Chicken & Dumplings, Chicken Noodle, Chicken Stew, Meatball Stew, beef tamales and Turkey Stew. We could agree on Van Camps pork and beans and used them to make beans and wieners. It didn't matter in this case because there were so many selections those days in the grocery stores.

On March 23rd, I turned 66. I honestly never thought I make this far. What work I was able to do to help out was having benefits, I lost a couple of inches off my gut and rebuilt the muscles in my arms and legs. I also noticed that I had developed problems with my balance, no doubt caused by my closed up ear. I could now get down and up the ramp leading to the basement, on foot. The climb back up required a couple of stops but I didn't need to monkey around with either of my wheelchairs. I also had one other problem, my cholesterol was too low. Maybe my low fat diet didn't contain enough fat.

We both felt pretty good given the circumstances. Being as far south as we were, the weather soon warmed and it was time to get seedlings going. We brought the tables up from the basement and set them up in the living room. The living room had the most light of any room in the house and together with the two improvised grow lamps, we soon had seedlings. Sharon had also started to save the potato eyes. We had seedlings for our entire family and among us, we had more than enough garden space. John was kind enough to rototill again this year.

We planted early hoping we could get a bumper crop. We were mostly done by late April, early May. Sharon said this year she'd use one of the recipes on my computer and try her hand at dill pickles and if she could one load of sweet pickles. She also gave me a list of things she wanted me to do:

1. Add PRI-G to the gas
2. Order propane, pay for it in gold and silver

3. Get Joe to check over the generators
4. See if you can find more canning jars and especially, lids
5. Sharpen my kitchen knives
6. Inventory the basement supplies and fill in missing items

I checked the farm tank and the drums in the basement and we needed about 300 gallons of gas. When I got the fill up, I'd add the PRI-G. I contacted Art on the propane and told him we'd probably need more than one delivery. He told me that the limit was now 5,000 gallons per year and, but he'd do what he could. I didn't need that much so I thought we'd be good. Joe said to let him know when the big generator was shut down and cooled off, he'd check it out and come back later to check the portable. I suggested he come now, both were shut down until we lost power again. Some of the townspeople had been checking highways and they had new, in the box, canning jars and lids for \$20 a box on the jars and \$4 a box on the lids.

"Derek, when you have time, Sharon needs the kitchen knives sharpened. I'm going to inventory the basement and you try to think where we might be able to get the supplies to fill in."

"Gassville probably has all we need, Dad. They collected those trucks as a town project and the revenues go to the town. If we need something they don't have, it's possible that Flippin or Mountain Home have it. I'll come over later today and work on Sharon's knives."

When I inventoried the basement, I made 2 lists, one of things we had to buy and one of things we could produce ourselves. I had help, Aaron and Eric. The good news was, it didn't take long and the bad news was they found one of my boxes of Snickers Almond candy bars. When we finished inventorying the supplies, I suggested we inventory the armory, we should be good on ammo, still, I wanted to know exactly how much we had. It occurred to me that we needed to schedule some time on the range and take the brass to Mountain Home and get it reloaded.

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"Being you found those Snickers bars; you can keep them for helping with the inventory."

"Thanks grandpa. Is this your last box?"

"I don't really know, Aaron, I stashed boxes of candy everywhere, like a drunk hides his booze," I lied, there were several more boxes in the freezer. I kept candy because I liked it and as a hedge against hypoglycemia. If I told them about it, they'd want to eat it and as of late candy had been a luxury item. It was a simple pleasure when nothing was simple anymore.

The lights were one of those on again-off again propositions. The old coal fired plant that we in the area depended on was burning wood, but wood only had about 8-9% of the energy of coal. While coal wasn't hard to find, there was a major transportation problem and they were clear cutting areas to have enough wood for the boilers. By now, we were resigned to our fate. I suppose the way things were now was a mixture of the way things had been. I still had a computer and power to run it. Because I was born in '43, I didn't remember what it was like during WW II, but I did remember what it was like when I was about 4 years old. I hoped we never got back to rural Iowa in 1947.

We tended to take our modern conveniences for granted. If we lost electricity permanently, it would mean we needed an icehouse to store frozen food. Appliances wouldn't work and we'd have to have manual everything. That might not be a bad thing, if we could find all of those manual gadgets. It wasn't like we could pick up the phone and order them from a specialty store. Most of the old mechanical devices used in kitchen and around the house were available but not everywhere. At least we used an old fashioned can opener and I had a Coleman camping toaster somewhere in my camping supplies.

Joe checked both generators over and said both were ready to go. He also told me where to find more oil filters and oil. The generator took 6 quarts of oil with a filter change meaning I'd need several cases if we ran it for a long while, the recommended oil change was after the first 50 hours (break-in), then every 250hrs or six months, whichever occurs first (twice every 3 weeks). (It's in the owner's manual and Kohler has it on their website.)

I was angry because we had the best armory in the area and except for that one time we hadn't seen any BGs. I forgot for a moment that God has a sense of humor, something I'd soon learn to regret. We were ready to plant when the weather permitted and soon had our garden in. John kept busy with his rototiller digging the weeds between the rows and we hoed in between the plants.

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"You're still here?"

"Yes, Dad, we haven't been activated again, no orders."

"Is the Post Office up and operating?"

"Local mail only. I haven't been called back to work."

"What are you doing to keep busy, you know, to earn a living?"

"Took a job as a reserve policeman with the Gassville PD. I was thinking of spending my other time manning the lookout from your front deck."

"You gotta watch those pickups, you know," I advised.

“You only got 2. It takes 5 to become an Ace. Why are you leaning on the hoe?”

“Catching my breath, I hoe for a couple of minutes, catch my breath for about five and then hoe again for a couple of minutes.”

“You look like you need a break, let’s go up to the deck and sit down for a while.”

“I’d like to kid, but I have to finish this row.”

“Give me the hoe, you head back to the deck.”

I made a determined charge to the deck, but Derek beat me.

“I thought you were going to finish that row.”

“I did and 3 more besides. Don’t you feel good?”

“I feel fine. I have a little indigestion and my left arm hurts is all.”

“How bad is the pain?”

“Not bad. Let me catch my breath and I’ll dig out my tactical wheelchair. Man, I really like that new rifle you got me. Where did you find it?”

“Little Rock. We were checking homes and came upon a former Marine who had an extensive knife and gun collection. The LT said we could each take one gun and one knife. I already had the stiletto stuck away so I opted for the Super Match and the bowie knife.”

“How did you know it was a marine?”

“He had his medals in a case on the wall. The guy fought in Korea. I suppose he must have been in his seventies or early eighties.”

“You don’t know?”

“Nobody there, maybe they bugged out or something. I found a Garand clip so I assume he had at least one military rifle.”

“I tried to buy one of those from the SCM, but there was some kind of problem and I didn’t get it worked out in time. The M1A is just a Garand with a box magazine and a few minor changes. If you ever find one, I have Army Field Manual for the M1 Garand on my computer.”

“How long did it take you to get your M1A?”

“About 3 months after I got serious about it. The first thing I did was to buy magazines from Ammoman and have them shipped to Mary. Then I ordered some of that South African surplus and had it shipped to Charlene. Next, you bought me a Tac-Force vest and finally we got the rifle. After, I had Sandy install the red dot sight and I was set. Ron took me to a place where we could fine tune the sight and all I needed after that was to add more weapons.”

“So it took a while.”

“Not once I had real money to spend. I managed to get some other things that the state of California didn't like. They don't like anything, Derek, you can't even legally have a Berkey water filter and, they don't even like some of the generators on the market. Man, am I glad we got out of there.”

“Are you feeling better?”

“A little. What I wouldn't give for a pitcher of homemade lemonade.”

“I haven't seen a fresh lemon in quite a while.”

“We have a couple of cases of that frozen concentrate, but it just isn't the same. I not sure that things will be the same in my lifetime, and possibly not in yours. Sharon can make us some lemonade and we can sit a while. I'll tell her when I get my wheelchair.”

“It's really strange, if you know what I mean. Most of the areas I've seen don't have any damage. Some of them got fallout but were too far from the explosions to get any damage. Of course, that didn't keep the people from dying, first from radiation sickness and later from disease, starvation or bullets. I guess I didn't know what to expect if the country ever was attacked by nuclear weapons.”

“Derek, I tried to anticipate what would happen. I figured on large population centers and critical military targets. There were also infrastructure targets on the list like the 104 nuclear reactors spread around the country. Anyone who attacked the US had to assume we'd backtrack the missiles and blow the country of origin to kingdom come. It worked from '47 to '07 so it's hard to argue against the principle of Mutually Assured Destruction. However, the same nuclear nations didn't have enough weapons to equal our a strike and I believe that's why they used their weapons rather than lose them.”

“What are you talking about?”

“The nations that bought nuclear weapons with their oil money and salted them away while they pretended to develop peaceful nuclear energy.”

“Iran?”

“And Saudi Arabia and who knows who else. I wouldn’t be surprised if Hugo Chávez bought a few. Compare a nuclear weapon to running planes into buildings. It only took a year or so to clean up the WTC site and a few more years to start construction. With nuclear weapons, it might take 10 years or longer before you could even begin to try and clean up the site of the attack. They haven’t done anything to rebuild Little Rock yet. It’s probably cheaper to just build new cities. I suppose they could fence the cities in and label them as Dead Zones We could leave them alone for 10 years or more before we tried to rebuild them, if at all.”

“So great seer, what does your crystal ball tell you about the future?”

“That I’m going to die in a few years and it will be up to your generation to rebuild the nation. Just remember something, be careful who you put in office, we don’t need full time politicians except in a few cases. The public doesn’t always have the right to know things either. Reporters should just report the facts and let the readers draw their own conclusions. Never talk to a reporter and if he persists, shoot him AND the cameraman. Then, steal the tape and destroy it.”

“Is there any good news?”

“Yeah, now that you ask, there is. I figure that a lot of those liberals and sheeple died in the attacks and the aftermath. There will still be some around because they were so cowardly they found someplace to hide. Whatever you do, don’t let them get power again. You’re a good Christian, so I can say this and you won’t misunderstand, live by the Golden Rule.”

“That’s a nice philosophy, but it could get you killed, Dad.”

“I didn’t say turn the other cheek. If they point a gun at you, shoot first and ask questions after. If they’re carrying a gun, it may mean that they’re on your side so try to find out their intent before you’re forced to shoot. Derek, a gun is just a tool that can be used for both good and bad purposes. Don’t be afraid of the tool, but the fool who is holding it. I’ve told you that before, and I’ll repeat it until I’m sure everyone understands.”

“Is the nation worth rebuilding?”

“Not the way it was no. If it is worth rebuilding what the founders intended, yes. If you somehow get involved with that, remember that the founding documents were the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution including the Bill of Rights. I’ve got to go rest for a while, I don’t feel good. Sorry, pal.”

◦

He laid down alright, but he never got up. We sort of figured it was his heart. He said to never leave any story without a conclusion so, I’ll finish the chapter for him. He knew

that he couldn't take anything with him and left specific instructions of what he wanted done with his things. He didn't have a will that we could find, only a handwritten list of instructions:

1. Sharon gets the house and anything she wants.
2. Damon and Derek get first choices of anything I own that counts as a weapon including but not limited to my guns, knives and computer.
3. Damon and Derek should go to Charles City and insist that the Bank distribute any remaining balance of the trust fund.
4. Don't fight with each other over what we have. It isn't much but it was all a gift from God.
5. Be grateful for the friends you have, you never have many good friends, but the ones you have are as precious as gold.

Sharon said that he wanted to be cremated and under the circumstances we decided to do it ourselves. We built a large pyre and placed Dad on the top of the pile. And then, we lit it and left. The next day we raked up the remaining bones and buried them next to Missy.

That's it, dead men tell no tales.

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